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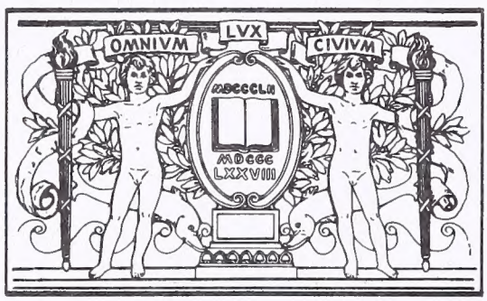
The Wilburns who Came West



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The Wilburns who Came West

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1990

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TO THE READER:

I hope you will find this book interesting and informative. It is the result of approximately ten years of research, and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

I hope, also, that you will be able to find your branch of the family and see how it fits into the total picture. The roman numeral before each name refers to the generation number, with Robert S. Wilburn, who was born approximately 1775, starting as generation #I.

In the index, I have listed all Wilburns under the spelling "WILBURN". I know some of you spell the name "WILBOURN", and my apologies to you. It really seemed too complicated to do it any other way, in view of the number of variations of the name.

Also, in the index I have listed women under their maiden name, if known, and the surname of their husbands(s), if known, will be in parenthesis.

In the event of a name occurring several times over several generations (e.g. Thomas Wilburn) I have given some other identity clue in the index, such as date of birth.

Happy reading, and please do let me know of additions, errors, or other comments.

Marjorie Wilburn Jensen

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It may be appropriate to include here a brief account of the methods I have used to research the Wilburn family. I began with my own family. My father, Ardrea Wilburn, was a great help. He had a keen mind and good memory and gave me much reliable information about his father and mother, Thomas and Elizabeth, and Thomas' sisters and brothers. He also had a box his mother had saved which included obituaries of family members. Among these obituaries was that of Thomas' father, Shadrich, who had died in 1899 at the home of Thomas and Elizabeth. This obituary gave a complete history of Shadrich, and also the date of death of Shadrich's father who died in Illinois in 1867. This led to the next step - a search of Illinois census and probate records. A trip to Springfield, Illinois produced a real gold mine in the office of the Clerk of District Court where the original probate papers of Robert S. Wilburn (Shadrich's father) were located. These, in lieu of a will, included some personal letters from one family member, and a listing of Robert's heirs - his wife Rachael (wife #2) and eleven grown children. My goal has been to find as much information as possible about these eleven children of Robert S. Wilburn.

One piece of information leads to another, much as one fits together a jigsaw puzzle. I have found pieces of the puzzle in marriage records, census reports, land records, school records, personal letters, queries in genealogical newsletters, and sometimes by pure accident.

Such was the case in a library in Knoxville, Tennessee, where I found a county history book about Union Co., South Carolina, containing biographies of various Wilburn families. Correspondence with an author of the biographies eventually led to the purchase of a Wilburn genealogy written in 1953 by Hiram Coleman Wilburn who had lived in Waynesville, North Carolina. Mr. Wilburn is now deceased, but I was able to obtain a copy from a daughter, Stacy Wilburn Oswalt.

Only another "genealogy nut" can appreciate the thrill of receiving a letter containing new bits of family information. I would like to thank those who have answered my letters or shared some information. Without your help, it would have been impossible to compile this book. It would also not have been accomplished without the patient help of my husband. We have walked through weedy cemeteries, pored through courthouse records, and struggled with computers. I struggled. He taught. Thanks, also, to daughter Karla Jensen Gulley for her fine calligraphy work on the title page.

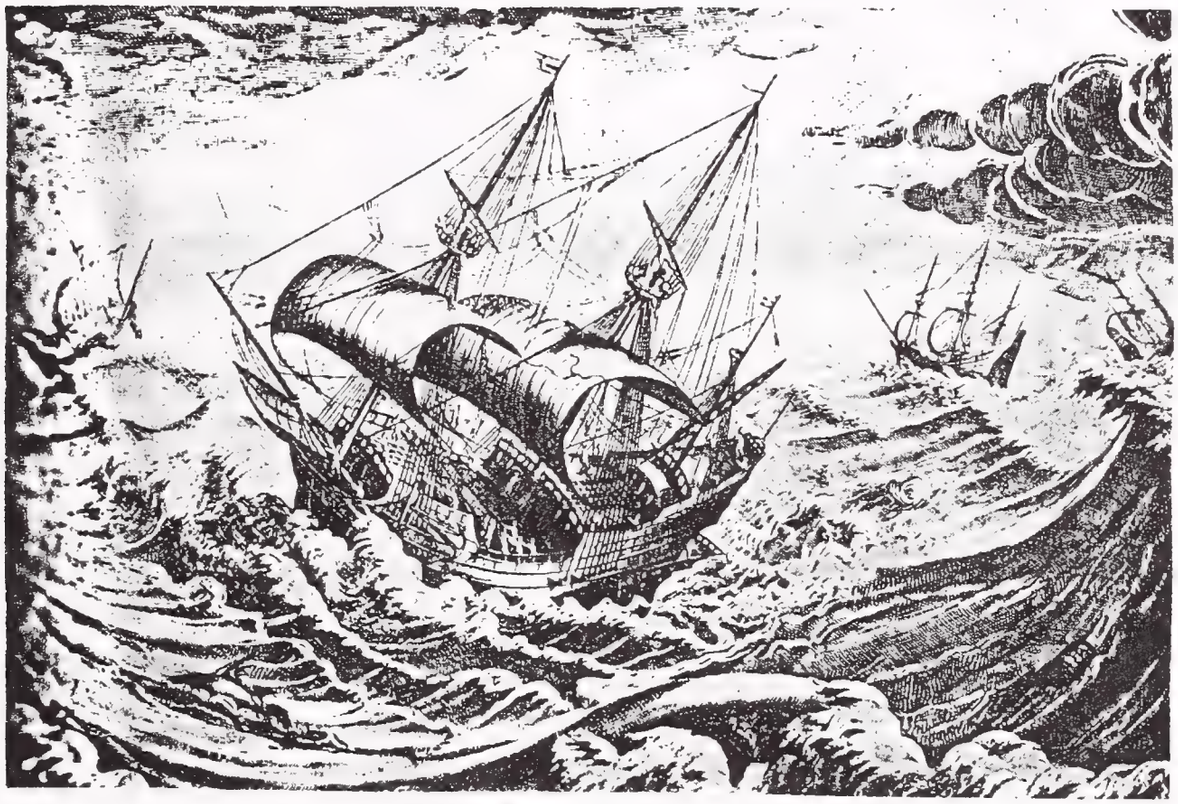
My search is not complete, and never will be. I feel it is time to share what I know so far. Perhaps the sharing will bring new information. I have tried to be accurate and careful, but I know there are bound to be errors. Sometimes I find conflicting information and must try to decide which is more likely to be correct. In spite of my best efforts, simple errors may creep in. I want to know of any corrections to be made, and I especially want to know of any additional information you may have. This will keep the story of the Wilburns current as time marches on.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE FAMILY NAME

(In part as recorded in a Welborn/Wilburn history and genealogy by Hiram Coleman Wilburn, listed in Library of Congress and printed by Miller Printing Co., Asheville, North Carolina)

A bulletin of the Media Research Corporation, Washington D.C. states that the family name Wellborn, Wilbourn, Wilburn, etc. was derived from the English name, which had its origin in "dweller at the well", or "born at the well". There were in ancient times at least three such places in England and even then there were many spelling variants.

The earliest English record of the name concerns Hugh de Welleburn, who in 1275 was living in the county of Lincoln. Shortly after the year 1300 a Sir John Welburne, Knight, married Dorathie, daughter of the Earl of Lincoln. In 1565 a George Wellborn is mentioned as the "Gentleman of Dorset". At that time the name seems to have been quite widespread. The father of John Wellborn, who came to Jamestown in 1610, has not been determined. It is interesting to note that the evolution of the spelling seems to have been very similar in the East and in the Midwest, going generally from Welborn to Wilbourne or Wilbourn, and in more modern times to Wilburn. In this book I will treat all variants as being the same family name, and will index them under Wilburn because this is the way I spell my name - - - and it's my book!



This book is primarily an account of Robert S. Wilburn and his descendants. Robert was born in North Carolina about 1775. Sometime near 1800 he joined several other Wilburn families, and made the dangerous move to the newly opened pioneer state of Kentucky. Thus the title of the book - "The Wilburns Who Came West." In those days, Kentucky was a hostile area, and those early pioneer men and women had to be strong and courageous adventurers.

In my research of the Wilburns, I have found evidence of many such adventurers. The first Wilburn to arrive in America is reported to be a John Wellborn who came in 1610 to Jamestown. An account of his trip was found in a Wilburn genealogy, written by Hiram C. Wilburn of North Carolina. Thus far, there is no absolute proof that "our" Wilburns descended from John. I cannot quote an absolute source which proves even the existence of this elusive John. However, in the records of most of the Wilburn genealogists with whom I corresponded, reference is made to John's arrival in 1610. The details are remarkably consistent. At any rate, the story of John Wellborn's journey to America is too exciting not to share, so here it is:

> **John Wellborn, with a company of colonists, sailed from Plymouth, England June 2, 1609, in the ship Sea Venture, commanded by Sir George Somers. Altogether there was a squadron of seven vessels, carrying a total of over 500 emigrant passengers headed for the Jamestown settlement. However, a violent storm separated and scattered the squadron and some never reached their destination. Officers, crew members and passengers of the Sea Venture had to fight three days and four nights without sleep, pumping and bailing, to keep from sinking.**
>
> **Finally the ship was cast upon the rocks of Bermuda and crushed to pieces. Miraculously, all the people reached the shore safely, but lost almost all their possessions. The mild climate and bountiful food on the island afforded rather comfortable living conditions, and the colonists stayed there for nearly ten months. During this time they built two crude vessels from the salvaged Sea Venture and other timber. They named these new ships the Patience and the Deliverer and set sail again on May 10, 1610, arriving at Jamestown May 24th.**
>
> **In the meantime, those at Jamestown were having a very hard time. John Smith had become disabled in an accident and had returned to England. In his absence there was a lack of leadership, and disease and death had reduced the number to only about 60 starving individuals. They were unable to maintain themselves, much less two new shiploads of colonists.**
>
> **Faced with these dire circumstances, Admiral Somers decided to embark both companies and make his way to Newfoundland, where he hoped**

to contact English fishing vessels that would transport them all back to England. However, before the departing vessels cleared the capes of Chesapeake Bay, they met Lord Delaware, Captain General of the Virginia Colony, with three ships laden with new settlers and an ample supply of provisions. All returned to Jamestown, and eventually the colony prospered.

There were 10 or more women and some children among the Sea Venture passengers. Six persons died on Bermuda Island, and there were two marriages. It has not been determined whether John Wellborn married before or after coming to Jamestown, but he had a grandson, Captain Thomas Wellborn, born in Virginia in 1640, only thirty years after his arrival. This Thomas was a child of his third son, so it is presumed John was married before leaving England.

By the early 1700's the Wilburn descendants were located primarily in North Carolina. One, Thomas Wilburn, was an active member of the Regulation Movement which preceded the Revolutionary War.

In the late 1700's or early 1800's, the restless Wilburns again headed for new areas. Some went to South Carolina and others to Kentucky. Robert S. Wilburn, our ancestor, was one of the latter.

COLONIAL WILBURNS

This line of descent is from Hiram C. Wilburn's Welborn/Wilburn genealogy. He in turn credits it to "The Hills of Wilkes Co., Georgia and Allied Families" by Lodowich Johnson-Hill, printed in 1922. I have found other sources with minor variations, but the overall picture seems to be quite consistent as to location and time frame. The Wilburn name, in its various spellings, is found quite readily in very early colonial times.

I emphasize that I have, at this time, no positive proof that our family line is connected to this one, but I do offer the following bits of circumstantial evidence.

#1. - Robert's birthdate and state of birth, as given in 1850 and 1860 census records are North Carolina in about 1775. This could readily tie in with this family line.

#2. - Earlier census records show a migration of Wilburns from North Carolina to South Carolina and to Kentucky at the end of the 1700's. Robert and his family were among those going to Kentucky.

#3. - Almost every generation in this early line of descent includes a Thomas. This was true in North and South Carolina. It continued to be true in later generations. My grandfather was Thomas Albertas Wilburn.

The early line of descent is as follows:
1. JOHN WELLBORN, the progenitor of the family in America, came from Wales to Jamestown, Va. in 1610. He was in the ill-fated ship, "Sea-Venture", 1609, which was wrecked on Bermuda Island, and so did not reach Jamestown till May 24, 1610. He had sons: (1) Rev. Rummand Wellborn; (2) Jonathan Wellborn; (3) John Wellborn, 2nd. All these moved to Accomac County, Va.

2. JOHN WELLBORN, 2nd, the 3rd son of John Wellborn, Senior. Wife's name not known. He had only one child: (1) - Captain Thomas Wellborn.

3. CAPTAIN THOMAS WELLBORN, only son of John Wellborn, 2nd, born in Accomac County, Va., 1640; died 1702; by Royal authority he was appointed, in 1668, a Justice of the Peace; was High-Sheriff in 1692; Captain of the King's Militia in 1694. In the year 1699 to 1702, he was a member of the House of Burgesses in Virginia; married Arcadia Taft, daughter of Henry and Ann Taft. They had children: (1) Samuel Wellborn; (2) Daniel Wellborn, who died in 1714; (4) Francis Wellborn, who was the ancestor of the West Virginia branch of the family; (5) Arcadia Wellborn.

4. SAMUEL WELLBORN, 1st son of Captain Thomas Wellborn, and his wife Arcadia Taft-Wellborn, born in Accomac County, Va.; moved to North Carolina in 1700. He was a surveyor; married Mary Chapley, and had children: (1) William Wellborn; (2) Thomas Welborn; (3) James Welborn.

5. WILLIAM WELLBORN, 1st child of Samuel Welborn and his wife, Mary Chapley; born in Rowan County, N. C., 1733; married Hepsiba Starnes, daughter of Isaac Starnes and his wife Rebecca Johnson. He later moved to Wilkes County, N. C.

5. THOMAS WELBORN, 2nd son of Samuel Wellborn and his wife, Mary Chapley-Wellborn, born about 1735; married about 1755, Hestie, Estie or Esther, family name not known; died in Guilford County, N. C., 1778. They had children: (1) John; (2) Ruth; (3) Joshua; (4) Cealeph or Caleb; (5) Thomas; (6) Ephraim; (7) Elijah or Elisha; (8) Ezekiel or Zekel; (9) William; (10) Amy or Emy. This roster of children from the will of Thomas Welborn, recorded May term of Court 1778; Book of Wills, pages 400-1-2. Guilford County. N.C.

5. JAMES WELLBORN, 3rd son of Samuel Wellborn and his wife, Mary Chapley, born about 1737; married Mary Teague. He is listed in the 1790 Census in Rowan County, N.C., Salisbury District.

Until a short time ago, I could not identify the parents of Robert S. Wilburn. I did know Robert had lived in Kentucky. His older children were born there, in Cumberland County. Then I found a History of Cumberland County which said:

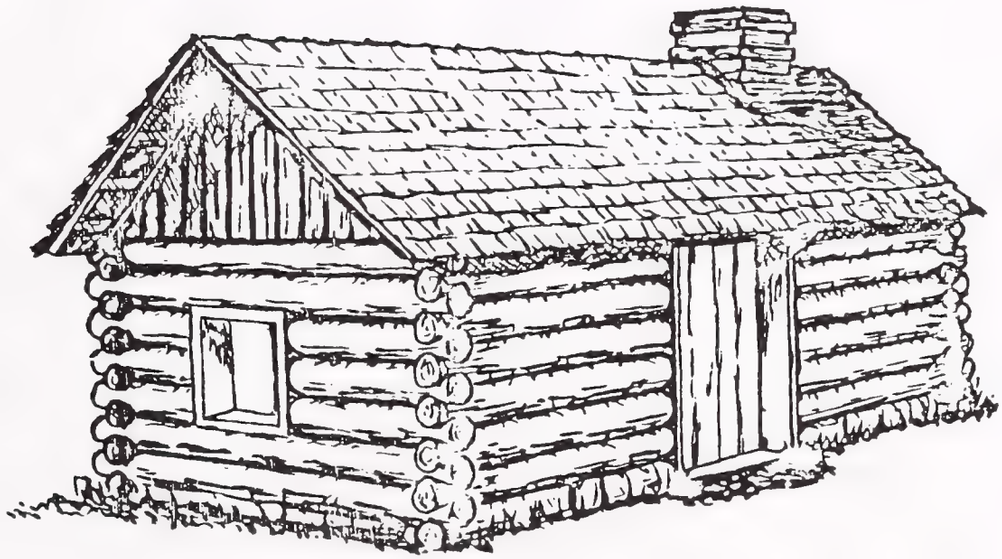
> *"Thomas and Sam were the two first Wilborns to pioneer Cumberland County, Kentucky, Thomas in the southern part and Sam in the northern part of the county. The children of Thomas were: Robert, John, Edward, Thomas Jr., William and Polly (Mary). By William came the Wilborns of Clinton Co. For Mary's progeny see Higginbothams."*

A trip to Burkesville, county seat of Cumberland County, was very productive. There I found recorded in the office of the County Clerk the will of Thomas Wilbourn, written in 1816, presumably shortly before his death. It is printed in another section of this book. Another son, Ralph, is also mentioned in this will. Note the fact that Robert received the grand total of seventy five cents! No wonder he decided to move to Illinois! Another Thomas Wilbourn will is recorded in 1817 and appears to be that of Thomas Jr. He leaves his possessions to "brothers Edward and Thomas" and specifically says his half-brothers and sisters are to receive nothing. This would appear to include our Robert. Again - - on to Illinois.

For the benefit of other Wilburn genealogists, I will mention some other Wilburns in nearby Barren County, Kentucky. Church records from Skaggs Creek Baptist Church have recently been found in the wall of an old house in Barren County. These records date from 1806 and include several Welborns among the charter members. Names mentioned are Sarah, Margaret, James and Isabel (believed to be husband and wife) Gideon, Samuel, Joshua and Rachel (also believed to be husband and wife). Joshua served many years as minister, evidently until the time when the church dissolved in 1861. A listing of early Kentucky wills shows the will of James Wilborn - died February 15, 1811, wife Esabel. Sons: Samuel, Joshua, other children not named. Mentions grandson but does not name him. Ex. - Samuel Wilborn, Joshua Wilborn (sons) Wit.: Edward Barber, Gideon Wilborn.

I feel these Welborns\Wilborns are related to ours. Census records show they also migrated from North Carolina at the turn of the 18th century. So far I cannot prove the relationship.

BIOGRAPHIES
AND
FAMILY GROUPS



ROBERT S. WILBOURN

Robert S. Wilbourn (Wilburn) died more than a century ago, but I feel as if I know him well. My years of research have told me a lot about him and his family. I would like very much to know more, and especially to have a picture of him, but so far these are the facts I do know.

He was born in North Carolina in about 1775. Many Wilburns were living in North Carolina at that time. About the turn of the century, for various reasons many of these Wilburns decided to move away from North Carolina. Quite a number migrated to South Carolina. Other branches moved West, following the example of Daniel Boone who crossed the Cumberland Gap from North Carolina into Kentucky. Robert was among the latter.

Here he probably met and married Virginia-born Elizabeth and they started a family. John, probably the eldest, claimed Cumberland County as his birthplace in 1805. Others born in Kentucky were Thomas, Nancy, Robert Jr., Zachariah, Shadrich, and probably Martha and Elizabeth. About 1822 they were lured to the rich soil and new opportunities of Illinois. They were among the very first settlers of northwest Sangamon County. Their farm was on section 3 of Cartwright Township, about 15 miles northwest of Springfield and near the small town of Pleasant Plains.

In Illinois three more children were born - Mary, Andrew Jackson, and Saphronia. Here, also, sometime between 1850 and 1857, Elizabeth died. On July 4, 1857, at the age of 82, Robert remarried. His bride was Rachael Fletcher, a younger woman of 59. They were married 10 years and 3 days before Robert died July 7, 1867. He had been persuaded by son John to sell the farm to neighbor Alexander Irwin in 1866 and evidently spent his last days at the home of daughter Saphronia Harding. So far, I have not been able to find where she lived, or where Robert, Elizabeth and Rachael are buried.

Sources:

1790 and 1800 census - North Carolina
1810 census - Cumberland Co., Kentucky
1850 and 1860 census - Sangamon Co., Illinois
County Histories -Union Co., S. Carolina,
Mason Co. and Sangamon Co., Illinois
Marriage records, Sangamon Co., Illinois
Probate papers, Sangamon Co., Illinois

THE FAMILY OF ROBERT S. AND ELIZABETH WILBURN

NOTE: Roman numerals on this chart, as on others in this book, denote generation, starting with Robert S. Wilburn as generation #I. Family members will usually, but not always be listed in order of birth. In Robert's family, the children are listed in the order in which they were listed in the probate papers.

I. ROBERT S. WILBURN	bn. ca. 1775 N. Carolina, d. 7 July, 1867 Sangamon Co., Illinois m. #1 - Elizabeth ? #2 - Rachael Fletcher 4 July, 1857, Sangamon County, Illinois
II. John S.	bn. 25 August, 1805, Cumberland Co., Kentucky d. 29 April, 1884, Mason City, Illinois m. Anna Dale, 1837, bn. ca.1815, d.17 Sept. 1882
II. Thomas	died before 1867
II. Robert W.	bn. ca. 1815, Kentucky. m. Sina Henderson 25 December, 1842, Sangamon County, Illinois d. 1911 bur. Ashland, Nebraska
II. Zachariah	bn. ca. 1805, Kentucky. d. 14 Sept. 1879, Henry County, Iowa. m. #1 Eleanor Plunkett 8 Jan. 1828, Sangamon Co., Illinois. #2, Eliza S. M. Young 24 May, 1848, Henry Co., Iowa, #3. Rebecca Ann Eliza Baker 29 March, 1853, Henry Co., Iowa.
II. Shadrich	bn. 26 August, 1818, Kentucky. d. 31 Dec. 1899 Red Cloud, Nebr. m. ca. 1854, Adelia Campbell bn. 1840, d. 10 June, 1884. Furnas Co., Nebr.
II. Andrew Jackson	bn. ca. 1827
II. Nancy	bn. 28 Febr. 1813, Cumberland Co., Kentucky d. 9 May, 1891, Henry Co., Iowa. m. Lewis W. Farmer 15 November, 1832, Sangamon Co., Illinois bn. 4 Febr. 1812, Cumberland Co., Kentucky d. 25 December 1878, Henry Co., Iowa
II. Martha (Sallie)	m. John R. Miller 31 March 1841, Sangamon Co., Ill.
II. Elizabeth	m. Greenberry Duff 11 October, 1848, Sangamon Co.Ill. bn. 10 August 1815, Kentucky
II. Mary (Polly)	bn. ca. 1828, Sangamon Co., Illinois. m. William Willcox 6 November 1856, Sangamon Co. Illinois. bn. 9 August 1813, Logan Co., Kentucky
II. Saphronia B.	bn. ca. 1832, Sangamon Co., Illinois m. Andrew Harding 6 March 1855, Sangamon Co., Ill.

JOHN S. WILBURN

John S. Wilburn must have been a very interesting man. He seemed to be an astute business man. His list of accomplishments over a rather long lifetime is an impressive one. It was a thrill to find quite a complete biography in a county history book of Menard and Mason Co., Illinois, written in 1879. You may enjoy it, also, so I will include it here in its entirety.

J. S. WILBURN, farmer; P.O.Mason City; one of the early pioneers of Illinois and Mason Co.; born in Cumberland Co., Ky., Aug. 25, 1805; in 1820, he came to Illinois and located twelve miles west of Springfield in what is now Sangamon Co., where he lived several years; he then followed lead mining in Galena several years; in 1830 he went to Chicago and purchased the corner where the Tremont House now stands, for $61, and two years later sold the same for $600; in 1831 he located at Beardstown and engaged in merchandising, milling, pork-packing, running flat-boats to New Orleans, freighting his own goods down and back, having branch stores both in New Orleans and at Galena; he continued in this business eleven years; he then followed the merchandise trade at Springfield and Pekin, and erected and ran a flour-mill in Peoria Co., and, in 1846, came to Mason Co. and engaged in hotel-keeping and merchandise trading in the town of Bath; in 1848, he was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court of Mason Co., which office he held for eight years; he was then Master of Chancery several years, and, in 1861, removed upon his present place, where he has since lived. Mr. Wilbourne took an active part in the old Black Hawk war of 1831-32, and erected the first fort, which was located near La Salle, and was named in honor of its builder, Fort Wilbourne; he also took the first boat-load of provisions up the Illinois River from St. Louis to his fort, and from which place the soldiers received their provisions, etc.; he was commissioned, by Gov. Reynolds, as Captain of Volunteers, which office he held during the war; during his residence in Cass Co. he was County Judge many years, aside from other military and civil offices. Mr. Wilbourne has been in active life for a period of fifty years, he has suffered all the hardships and privations of frontier life, and, at the advanced age of 75 years, is in possession of all of his faculties; he has suffered greatly the last few years on account of the loss of one of his limbs. He was united in marriage, in 1837, with Anna Dale; she was born in Kentucky; they have two sons and two daughters now living, viz., Belle, Sarah A., John and Edward.

John died April 29, 1884, surviving his wife Anna (in some records referred to as Annis) who had died September 17, 1882. According to the probate proceedings, his son John, Jr. served as administrator of his estate. Probate papers are also signed by daughters Sarah A. Wright and Isabelle Cleaver. Son Edward's name is not mentioned, leaving one to wonder if he had died before 1884. He had married Julia Wirth August 10, 1879. The 1880 census lists Edward, Julia, and 2-month old John E.

living with John S. And Annis. John S. had also made provisions for Edward in his will, written in 1880. The will was not revised after Annis' death in 1882.

Daughter Sarah's marriage to James G. Wright must have been brief and tragic. They were married April 25, 1858, but James died November 16, 1858 in Lincoln, Illinois, leaving a very young widow. A child was born, presumably after James' death and the child also died in infancy. By 1860 Sarah is listed in her parent's household. If she ever remarried, it would have been after 1884. She signs her name as Sarah Wright on her father's probate settlement papers.

A son, Thomas, is listed in the 1860 census as being 12 years old. Since he is not mentioned later, it is assumed he died while a young man.

Isabelle married H. R. Cleaver October 24, 1858. They had at least one son, Douglas H. Cleaver who was living at the home of his Uncle John in Taylor Co., Iowa in 1880. By 1900 he had married Nora ? and was living in Spencer, Iowa. At that time he and Nora had a son, Chauncey, 10, son Bernard, 8, and daughter Geraldine L., 5.

John, Jr., at the time he was in Taylor Co., Iowa had a wife listed as Ellen, a son Thomas, 11, and a 9-year old daughter Louisa. Both children had been born in Illinois, so the family had moved to Iowa sometime after 1871.

Correspondence with a descendant, Deanna Carrico of Denton, Texas, brought me more news of this family. Deanna's grandfather, Grover Cleaveland Wilburn, was born in 1885 in Mason Co., Illinois. He was a late-arriving son of John Wilburn, Jr. Deanna also tells me John's wife was Helen (not Ellen) Smith. John and Helen evidently returned to Illinois after the death of John Sr. They did not remain there long, however. In about 1898 John and Helen's son Thomas moved to Texas. The rest of the family followed not long after that. The location (and married name, if any) of Louisa Wilburn are so far unknown. Thomas and Grover Cleaveland Wilburn both remained in Texas, where they died.

Sources:

County history, Cass Co., Illinois
Sangamon Co., Illinois
Menard and Mason Co., Ill.

Census
1860, Mason Co., Illinois
1880, Mason Co., Illinois
1880, Taylor Co., Iowa
1900, Blazoria Co., Texas

Marriage records, Mason Co., Illinois
Will and probate papers of John S. Wilburn
Family information

JOHN S. WILBURN FAMILY CHART

II. JOHN S. WILBURN bn. 25 August, 1805, Cumberland Co., Kentucky
d. 29 April, 1884, Mason Co., Illinois
m. Anna Dale, 1837, bn. ca 1815, d. 17 Sept. 1882

III Isabelle Wilburn m. H. R. Cleaver 24 October 1858

IV. Douglas H. Cleaver bn. August, 1863, Illinois. m. Nora ?
bn. October, 1868, Ohio

V. Chauncey G. Cleaver bn. March 1890, Iowa

V. Bernard Cleaver bn. March 1892, Iowa

V. Geraldine L. Cleaver bn. February 1895, Iowa

III Sarah A. Wilburn bn. ca 1841, Illinois. m. James G. Wright 25 April 1858, bn. 20 March 1835, Illinois, d. 16 November 1858.

IV. "a child" bn. 1859, d. In infancy.

III John Wilburn bn. ca. 1846 Mason Co., Illinois. m.Helen Smith
bn. April 1850, Illinois

IV Thomas Wilburn bn. May 1869, Illinois

IV Louisa B. Wilburn bn. ca. 1871, Illinois

IV Grover Cleaveland Wilburn bn. 24 June 1885, Illinois
d. 8 January 1951, Dallas, Texas. m. 10 June 1911, Navarro Co. Texas, Jessie Allen Blair, bn. 8 September 1888, d.14 July 1933 Ft. Worth, Texas.

V. Eleanor Wilburn bn. 8 April 1912, Ft. Worth, Texas, m.1932 Francis Broiles bn. 7 July 1908

VI Janice Eleanor Broiles bn. 22 January 1937 m. #1 Oran Spear Scarlett, #2. Eugene Fuhrman

V. Ruth Wilburn bn. 22 February 1914, Ft. Worth, Texas
m. 30 June 1935 James B. Neace, Jr. bn.15 Sept. 1912

VI. Deanna Neace bn. 3 January 1938 m. 5 April 1957 William Raymond Carrico, bn. 11 January 1937

VII James Jay Carrico bn. 12 October 1961
m. 23 August 1986 Marla Kay Miller

VII Nancy Kathleen Carrico bn. 22 May 1964

VII Joy Carrico bn. 30 July 1971

III Thomas Wilburn bn. ca. 1848, died before 1879

III Edward Wilburn bn. ca. 1850, Illinois. m. 10 August 1879 Julia Wirth, bn. ca. 1862

IV John E. Wilburn bn. ca. April 1880, Illinois

THOMAS WILBURN

Information about Thomas Wilburn is rather sketchy, but interesting. I first ran across his name in a County History book of Cass Co., Illinois, published in the late 1800's. Under a listing of Beardstown business men of 1834, I found the names of T. and J. S. Wilbourne, who had paid $5.00 for a license to sell goods. Thomas Wilbourne was also said to have been a Grand Jury foreman in 1837, and president of the Board of Trustees of the city of Beardstown. In 1840 he resigned a position as county treasurer of Cass Co. to be a candidate for the House of Representatives. He lost this race. Also, the Cass County history says, "Messrs. Thomas and John Wilbourn, among other buildings, erected a few years ago their new mill. Wilbourn built also a store building upon the lot upon which the opera house now stands. That firm dissolved, and Nolte and McClure purchased their store goods." Thomas is also listed in an 1840 census of Beardstown.

Here the trail becomes dim. Where did he go? The next time we find his name is in connection with probate proceedings after the death of Thomas' father, Robert, in 1867. Among the heirs listed is that of "John, son of Thomas, deceased." When did he marry? And die? And where?? Perhaps he was a civil war casualty. Who was his widow? What happened to son John? These are all questions I hope to answer someday, but so far I can only guess. The trail ends.

Sources: County History, Cass Co., Illinois
Census, 1840, Cass Co., Illinois
Probate papers of Robert S. Wilbourn

ROBERT W. WILBURN

Robert W. Wilburn was born about 1815 in Kentucky. He would have been about 7 years old when he came with his family to Sangamon Co., Illinois. Here, on Christmas day, 1842, he married Sina Henderson. She was probably a neighbor girl. She had been born in Illinois and was 10 years younger than Robert. They lived on a farm near Robert's father, Robert S. Wilburn, until at least 1850. The census of that year lists three children in the family - Robert, age 7, Thomas, 5, and Charles, 1. By 1860 they had moved to a farm in Christian County, Illinois, southeast of Springfield. Four daughters had joined the clan - Elisabeth (sic), 9, Cinthia, 6, Mary A., 4, and Charlotte, 4 months. Charles is not listed, so I presume he had died.

Here my information about the family ended for quite some time until I accidentally found news of them in Nebraska. While looking for records of some other family members in the Historical Library in Lincoln, I found a notice of the death of Sina Wilburn. This news item appeared in the Louisville (Nebraska) Weekly Courier November 4, 1911.

> *Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Mayfield went to Omaha to attend the funeral of an aunt of Mrs. Mayfield, Mrs. Robert Wilburn. Although a resident of Omaha for a number of years, the aged lady was formerly a pioneer resident of Cass County and was well known by the early settlers of Salt Creek precinct as Aunt Sina Wilburn. Services were held at the home after which the remains were taken to Ashland for internment.*

The information on the card catalog stated Sina was 87 and four children survived her. Since this information was not included in the news item I felt another obituary must have been printed somewhere but so far I have been unable to find it. Robert had evidently preceded her in death. Someday I hope to have more facts about this family.

Sources: Census, 1850, Sangamon Co, Illinois
Christian Co., Illinois
D. A. R. Marriage records, Sangamon Co., Illinois
Nebraska Historical Library Newspaper file

I had considered a separate chapter about the life of Zachariah. An intensive study of his life, and a listing of his descendants, would be worthy of a separate book. However, I will leave that task to one of his direct descendants. There certainly must be a lot of them, for he was the father of 21 children. Some of these died in childhood.

Zachariah's exact date of birth is unknown, but he was born about 1805 in Kentucky. His brother John was born about that time, also, and these two brothers seemed to have shared a competitive spirit which endured to the adult years. This is in evidence in the letter Zachariah wrote concerning John's dealings with his father's inheritance. This is included in a later chapter on source material.

Zachariah had married Eleanor Plunkett in Illinois. Eleanor was the daughter of John H. Plunkett and Elizabeth Purviance Plunkett. The Plunketts were natives of Cabarras County, North Carolina, where Eleanor was born. The family moved to Sangamon Co., Illinois in 1823 and quite a complete review of the Plunkett family is included in the History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon Co., Illinois compiled by J. C. Powers in 1876.

The Wilbournes farmed near Zachariah's father for a few years. In about 1834 they took their three small children, Allen K., Elizabeth J., and Matilda, and set off across the prairie, headed for newly opened land west of the Mississippi River. In their covered wagon they brought a family bible which is now owned by a great, great granddaughter, Ella Begolty Woerdeman, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Zachariah and Eleanor settled on a farm 3 1/2 miles northwest of Mt. Pleasant, near Big Creek. The land was very newly opened to white settlers. Iowa would not become a state for twelve years. Zachariah was reportedly the second settler in Henry Co. and the first to have a family with him. After their arrival in Iowa, five more children were added to the family. Two of these died in infancy or early childhood. Eleanor died in 1840. Zachariah was skilled as a stone mason, hewing out the stones for the first block building at the State Hospital in Mt. Pleasant. The first few years in Iowa, it was necessary to spend five to six weeks in the fall hauling grain to St. Louis. This was the closest available mill. This long trip inspired Zachariah to build a horse-powered grist mill. The burrs of this old mill were made of granite which Zachariah shaped himself. The mill was used by other pioneers who came from a great distance to have their wheat milled into flour.

After the death of Eleanor, Zachariah found new companionship and married Eliza S. M. Young May 24, 1848. She is listed with the family in the 1850 census. Her birthplace was New Hampshire. However, she evidently died soon after 1850, because Zachariah married again on March 27, 1853. His new bride was Rebecca Ann Eliza Baker, according to marriage records. She appears as Eliza in later census records, but her birthplace of Ohio clearly differentiates the two Elizas. Wives #2 and #3 were much younger than Zachariah. Eliza Young was about 16 according to census, and Eliza Baker about 18 when they were married. Now comes the amazing chapter of Zachar-

iah's life. Between 1853 and 1879, when Zachariah died, thirteen more children were born!! Obviously, in my research, more than 100 years later, I find it very difficult to sort out all these children. I did find record of several of them in Cass Co., Iowa. Eliza evidently went to live with some of her older children after Zachariah's death. Some of the younger children were very small when their father died and, of course, went with their mother. The family is listed in Carl, a small town in Adams Co., in 1880. Later they moved to the Anita, Iowa area in Cass Co. and Eliza is buried there, as are several members of the family.

The news item regarding Zachariah's death appeared in the Mt. Pleasant Journal, September 18, 1879, and I will include it here. Records I find of Zachariah and most of his descendants are fairly consistent with the Wilbourn or Wilbourne spelling of the name. There are, of course, some variations as I find throughout my research.

AN OLD SETTLER GONE.

Zachariah Wilbourne, one of the oldest settlers of Henry county, died Sunday morning, Sept. 14th at 10 1/2 o'clock. He had been afflicted for some time but had but recently been going about, being in Mt. Pleasant ten days before his death, and was bedfast but a few days. The funeral services took place at his residence Monday afternoon, conducted by Rev. DeGarmo. A large number of people attended the burial, the deceased being well-known throughout the county. He came here at an early day, was the first settler in his township and the third in the county. He was one of the pioneers who, along with Presley Saunders, James Dawson and Wm. Lusk, in 1834, braved the hardships of an unsettled country. In regard to his arrival and settlement the Henry county history says: "In December following (that is in 1834) Z. Wilbourne made a claim near Big Creek, Marion twp. Mr. Wilbourne erected the first grist mill in the county. It was a primitive affair run by horse power and the burrs were made of granite found on the spot. The stones were dressed into shape by Mr. Wilbourne. It was merely a homemade concern but was a great convenience to the people for miles around -- people coming from 60 to 80 miles to get their grist ground." We, of the present know but little of the hardships of his pioneer life, of dangers from Indians and wild animals, of difficulties attending his carving out a home in the wilderness. He went through it all and lived to see the babes born in those early times grow to man and womanhood. His old mill site has long since become a mass of ruins. Yet he took delight up to his death in telling strange adventures which occurred when it was running. The old pioneer will be sadly missed not only by his friends, neighbors and family, but by his comrades of early years, many of whom have chased game with him and taken shelter under his hospitable roof. He was a monument and open history of early times - a sort of connecting link between the past and present, one whom a community could ill afford to lose. At the time of his death he was 74 years old and had been extraordinarily blessed with children - 21 in all, 14 of whom were at his bedside a short time before his death. He died as he had lived - quietly. The family have the sympathy of the entire community in a common loss.

Sources: Probate papers of Robert S. Wilburn
Census records, Sangamon Co. Illinois, 1830
Henry Co.,Iowa, 1840
Henry Co.,Iowa, 1850
Henry Co.,Iowa, 1860
Henry Co.,Iowa, 1870
Adams Co.,Iowa, 1880
Cass Co., Iowa, 1900
D. A. R. Marriage records Sangamon Co., Illinois
County Histories, Sangamon Co., Illinois and Henry Co. Iowa
Cemetery Records, Cass Co., Iowa and Henry Co., Iowa
Church Records, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Henry Co., Iowa
Newspaper, Mt. Pleasant Journal
Family Information

ZACHARIAH WILBOURN
(family #1)

II. ZACHARIAH WILBOURN - bn. ca. 1805, Cumberland Co., Kentucky
d.14 September 1879, Henry Co., Iowa
m. #1 Eleanor P. Plunkett, d.1840, Iowa
#2, 24 May 1848, Eliza S. M. Young
#3, 29 March, 1853 Rebecca Ann Eliza Baker
bn. 28 April 1835, d. 27 December 1894,
buried Evergreen cemetery, Anita, Iowa

III. Allen King Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1832, Illinois. d. 26 November 1895
buried Anita, Iowa. m. Emily

IV. Minerva Wilbourn

IV. Three other children - names unknown

III. Robert Randolph Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1837. d. ca. 1870
m. 24 December 1858 Lovina Strickley (or Strickland?)
bn. 14 July 1841, Ohio. d. 17 December 1913, Strang, Oklahoma

IV. Lafayette Franklin Wilbourn - bn. 23 April 1860, Henry Co., Iowa
d. 15 July 1922, Calloway, Nebraska. m. 8 May 1889, Brighton
Iowa, Ida Ellen Allington bn. 5 March 1870 Brighton, Iowa
d. 15 May 1911 Calloway, Nebraska

V. Bertha F. Wilbourn - bn. 10 April 1890 Brighton, Iowa
d. Dos Palos, California. m. John Dill

V. Lloyd E. Wilbourn - bn. 10 September 1891, Brighton, Iowa
d. 27 December 1988 Broken Bow, Nebraska. m. 4 December
1912 Edith Cudaback

V. Blanch I. Wilbourn - bn. 8 February 1893. d. 28 December 1913
Strang, Oklahoma

V. Fern W. Wilbourn - bn. 16 December 1896

V. Pearl V. Wilbourn - bn. 9 May 1899 Callaway, Nebraska
d. 14 January 1931 Merced, California. m. 25 October 1915
Cue W. Elliott bn. 9 June 1896 Missouri. d. 24 Nov. 1956

VI. - Joyce Elliott - bn. 26 April 1929. m. 2 April 1948
to --Champion

V. Laura G. Wilbourn. - bn.23 June 1901 Callaway, Nebraska
m. 16 April 1924 Francis Walter Stivers

VI. Lorna Stivers - m. - Gannon

V. Harold F. Wilbourn - bn. 25 March 1904 Callaway, Nebraska
d. Gothenburg, Nebraska. m. Ruth -

V. Guy B. Wilbourn - bn. 16 October 1906 Callaway, Nebraka
d. 8 April 1962 Twin Falls, Idaho. m. Hazel Baker

V. Sylvan Earl Wilbourn - bn. 24 May 1909 Callaway, Nebr.
d. Cody, Wyoming m. Ruby-

IV. Charles E. Wilbourn - bn. 28 September 1862. d. 12 June 1902

IV. Mary E. Wilbourn - bn. 6 February 1866 d. 1889. m.-Reed

IV. Sylva Ann Wilbourn - bn. 11 February 1868 d. 12 June 1872

III. Sophia Margaret Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1838 Iowa. m. 14 October 1856
Domineque Dambrun (Dambraw?)

III. Nancy Ellen Wilbourn - m. 3 April 1866 Francis Goodnow

III. Elizabeth Jane Wilbourn - bn. 29 May 1831 Sangamon Co., Ill.
d. 1925. m. 18 July 1850 Henry Co., Iowa to Nestor A. J. Young
bn. 22 October 1828 Pennsylvania. d. 1913 Henry Co., Iowa

IV. Emmet C. Young - bn. 21 July 1851 Henry Co., Iowa d. 1917
buried Forest Home cemetery, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. m. Emma
Virginia Scott. bn. 1850 d. 1936

V. Genevieve M. Young - m. Malan Harshbarger

V. Hubert Elmer Young - m. Elizabeth Lee

VI. Anna May Young

VI. Myrtle E. Young

VI. Mary Young

VI. Masel Young

VI. Andrew Young

VI. Elsie Young

VI. "infant daughter" (in 1906)

V. Jessie E. Young. m. Manly Frazier

VI. Emmet Frazier

VI. Glenn Frazier

III. Matilda (Melissa) Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1829 Illinois m. 23 March 1848 Mathew Wilson bn. ca. 1829

IV. John Thomas Wilson - bn. ca. 1849

V. Emma Jane Wilson - m. - Begolty

VI. Ella Begolty - m. - Woerdeman

V. Mable Wilson

IV. Eliza Wilson - bn. ca. 1851

IV. Zachariah Wilson - bn. ca. 1853

IV. Andrew J. Wilson - bn. ca. 1857

ZACHARIAH WILBOURN
(family #2)

II. ZACHARIAH WILBOURN m. 29 March 1853 Rebecca Ann Eliza Baker bn. 28 April 1835 d. 27 December 1894 buried Anita, Iowa

(All generation #III born in Henry Co., Iowa.)
III. Martha Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1853. m. -Davenport

III. Frank Wilbourn (perhaps Frank Shadrich?) - bn. July 1854 d. 1928 Anita, Iowa. m. Flora or Florence - bn. September 1859 Pennsylvania. d. 1927 Anita, Iowa

IV. Lula G. Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1877

IV. Alice M. Wilbourn - bn. July 1879

IV. Earl - bn. 7 October 1881 d. 2 April 1917

IV. Frank Wilbourn - bn. June 1885

IV. Grace Wilbourn - bn. March 1887

IV. Ethel Wilbourn - bn. July 1888

IV. Rosco Wilbourn - bn. September 1892

IV. Harvey Wilbourn - bn. March 1895

IV. James B. Wilbourn - bn. April 1896

IV. Maria Wilbourn - bn. April 1899

III. Thomas Wilbourn bn. 1859

III. Stephen A. D. Wilbourn - bn. February 1862 d. 1931 Anita, Iowa
m. Nancy (or Mary E.?) bn. November 1862 Indiana d.1924 Iowa

IV. Bessie Wilbourn - bn. February 1885

IV. Myrtle Wilbourn - bn. December 1886

IV. Pearl Wilbourn - bn. June 1889

IV. Roy Wilbourn - bn. January 1891

IV. Earnest Wilbourn - bn. August 1893

IV. Goldie Wilbourn - bn. July 1897

III. Zachariah Wilbourn - bn. September 1866 d. 1950 Anita, Iowa

III. Mary Parmelia Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1867

III. John Q. Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1868

III. Florence Wilbourn - bn. February 1873 d. 1953, Anita, Iowa

III. William Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1871

III. Stella G. Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1876 d. 1967

III. Emmanuel L. B. Wilbourn - bn. ca. 1876

ANDREW JACKSON WILBURN

Andrew Jackson is the most reclusive of the Wilburns, as far as my information is concerned. I know he existed. He is listed with the family in the Sangamon county 1850 census. His age was given as 23, so he was born ca. 1827 after the family arrived in Illinois. He is also listed among the heirs to share his father's estate in 1867. This time he is referred to as "Jackson". I do not know where he was living at that time and I find no marriage record. Perhaps he joined his brother Shadrich in California during the gold rush. I do not find him listed there, but census takers at that time and in that area could easily miss a lone prospector. If anyone knows more about Andrew Jackson Wilburn, please let me know.

Sources: 1850 census, Sangamon Co., Illinois
Probate record of Robert S. Wilburn

NANCY E. WILBURN FARMER

Nancy E. Wilburn was born in Cumberland Co., Kentucky February 28, 1813. When she was about nine years old she came with her family to Sangamon Co., Illinois where, November 15, 1832, she married Lewis W. Farmer. The Farmer family had also emigrated from Kentucky and the families were probably long-time friends.

Earlier in 1832, Lewis had been a soldier in the Black Hawk War. He had served in Captain Abraham Lincoln's company of mounted volunteers.

In 1837 Lewis, Nancy, and their two children, four-year old Elizabeth and tiny baby Benjamin headed for the newly opened area of Iowa. They settled on a farm 3 1/2 miles north of Mt. Pleasant in what would become Henry County. Nancy's brother Zachariah had already moved there with his family, and her sister Sally (Sarah) Miller arrived sometime before 1867. Some of Lewis' siblings also lived in Iowa. Among these were Lewis' sister Nancy and her husband Jesse Ashlock, sister Sarah and her husband Elijah Menifee, and brother Charles with his wife Lucy Mildred Menifee.

Nancy joined the Baptist church in April, 1838 and found time to remain active in the church as the Farmer family increased. There were 11 children in all, but I only find further record of 7. In addition to the two who came from Illinois, there were four more daughters - Nancy Ellen, Minerva, Sarah Anne, and Mary Saphronia - and one more son, Lewis W. Jr. Perhaps some children died in infancy or early childhood.

Lewis died on Christmas day, 1878, and is buried in the Oak Grove Baptist cemetery. He was followed by Nancy May 9, 1891. She died after a very brief illness. According to the article in the Mt. Pleasant Journal the two o'clock funeral service was attended by "a large concourse of sympathizing friends and neighbors, attesting the respect and esteem they had for her."

Sources:
Census, 1850, Henry Co., Iowa
1860, Henry Co., Iowa
Church records, Oak Grove Baptist
Marriage records, D.A.R.. Illinois
1948-49, v.8
Newspaper - Mt. Pleasant Journal
D. A. R. Iowa Genealogical Records

I have been able to locate enough information about the family of Lewis and Nancy Wilburn Farmer to warrant a separate page or so. A History of Henry County, published in 1879, says the following about Benjamin who had come to Iowa as a baby with his parents.

Farmer, Benjamin F., farmer - Sec. 9 - P.O. Marshall; was born in Illinois in 1837; his parents, Lewis W. and Nancy E. Farmer, came to Henry Co. the year of his birth; they are now residents of Marion twp. Henry Co. Benjamin F. married in 1859, Frances E. Moshier, a native of Henry Co.; she was born in 1839; they have eight children. The mother of Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Elizabeth Moshier, was born in Pennsylvania in 1797; with her husband, Mr. Thurston Moshier, came to Henry Co. about 1837. The parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Farmer were pioneers of this county. Mr. Moshier died in 1875.

Nancy Ellen Farmer married Hezekiah Cantwell May 23, 1863 and, according to church records, moved to Missouri.

Sarah Ann married Thomas Ogg, a neighbor boy. They had two sons, Osbert and William, and a daughter, Martha S. However, Thomas died and in 1880 Sarah and her three children were making their home with her mother who was also widowed by then. Son Lewis W. Jr. and his wife Florence were living on a neighboring farm and a nephew, David Farmer, was also at Nancy's home to help with the farm, so Nancy had lots of family to help her adjust to widowhood. Lewis and Florence had no children in the 1880 census. A daughter Gracie was born the next year but died July 20, 1882, just under a year old. She is buried near her grandparents in Oak Grove Church cemetery. I know little about Elizabeth, Minerva, and Mary Saphronia beyond their marriage records. Elizabeth married Benjamin F. Yount August 5, 1858, Minerva married James Menifee March 13, 1867, and Mary Saphronia married John Morrow. There seemed to be a strong attraction between the Farmers and the Menifees. I've found at least three Farmer-Menifee marriages. Minerva's Uncle Charles Farmer married Lucy Menifee, and her Aunt Sarah Farmer married Elijah Lewis Menifee. Such brother-sister marrying sister-brother combinations were fairly common, I've discovered.

I am grateful to Rose Barnstable of Catonsville, Maryland who has sent additional information concerning the Farmer family. Her husband David is a descendant of Lewis Farmer's brother Charles.

Sources: County History book, Henry Co., Iowa
Census 1860, Henry Co., Iowa
1880, Henry Co., Iowa
Church records, Oak Grove Baptist Church
Probate records, Robert S. Wilburn
Cemetery and D.A.R. Records, Henry Co., Iowa
Marriage records, Sangamon Co., Illinois
Family information

II. NANCY WILBURN. - bn. 28 February 1813, Cumberland Co., Kentucky
d. 9 May 1891, Henry Co., Iowa m. 15 November 1832, Sangamon Co, Illinois
Lewis W. Farmer, bn. 4 February 1812, Cumberland Co., Kentucky
d. 25 December 1878, buried Oak Grove Baptist Church cemetery

III. Benjamin F. Farmer - bn. 1837, Sangamon Co., Illinois. m 3 July 1859
Henry Co., Iowa Frances Elizabeth Moshier bn. 1839 Henry Co., Iowa

IV. Ella Farmer - bn. July, 1860,

IV. Lewis Farmer - bn. ca. 1861

IV. David G. Farmer - bn. 1863

IV. Alvin Farmer - bn. 1865

IV. Mary E. Farmer - bn. 1870. m. - Peck

IV. William H. Farmer - bn. 1872 m. 23 December 1903 Nellie Wery

IV. Jenny M. Farmer - bn. 1875

IV. Annie M. Farmer - bn. 1878

IV. Charles B. Farmer - bn. 2 February 1881

III. Elizabeth (Betsy) Farmer - bn. 1833 Sangamon Co., Illinois
m. 5 August 1858 Benjamin F. Yount

III. Nancy Ellen Farmer - bn. ca. 1841 m. 23 May 1863 Hezekiah Cantwell

III. Minerva Farmer - bn. ca. 1843, m. 12 March 1867 James Menifee

III. Sarah Ann Farmer - bn. 1849, Henry Co., Iowa d.1917. m Thomas Ogg

IV. Osbert Ogg - bn. 1870 d. 1930 bur. Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

IV. William Ogg - bn. 1872 d. 1934

IV. Martha Ogg - bn. ca. 1874

III. Lewis W.Farmer, Jr. - bn. ca. 1850, m. Florence Little

IV. Gracie Farmer - bn. ca. 1881 d. 20 July 1882

III. Saphronia Farmer - bn. ca. 1854, Henry Co., Iowa m. John Morrow

MARTHA WILBURN MILLER

Someday I hope to find out more about Martha C. Wilburn. She joins her brother Andrew Jackson in the contest for anonymity. We do have a few facts. Her marriage to John R. Miller was recorded in Sangamon Co., Illinois on March 31, 1841. She is listed as one of the heirs when her father, Robert S., died in 1867. This time her name is listed as Sallie Miller. In the process of settling the estate, her brother Zachariah wrote a letter to a lawyer in Illinois. Zachariah was in Henry Co., Iowa at the time and he said, "There are three heirs living out here - myself, Nancy Farmer, and Sarah Miller." It would seem quite likely that Martha, Sarah, and Sallie are all the same person. However, I have not been able to locate such a person in Henry County. Perhaps some nearby county? Help!

Sources: Illinois D. A. R. Marriage records, v.12
probate papers - Robert S. Wilburn

Elizabeth Wilburn Duff is also listed as one of Robert's heirs in his probate papers in 1867. Little by little, more details have been discovered.

Elizabeth may have been born in Kentucky. She married Greenberry Duff in Sangamon Co., Illinois October 11, 1848 and they moved shortly after 1850 to Mt. Auburn, Illinois in Christian Co., Illinois. Seven children were born to Elizabeth and Greenberry - sons Finis E., William G., Everett and Willard - and daughters Cornelia, Betsy D. and Verlinda. The later generations in my records are the descendants of Finis E. I am grateful to John W. Duff of Derby, Kansas who provided me with some Duff information. John is a descendant of Greenberry's brother. John also gave me the name of a descendant of Greenberry and Elizabeth Duff, Marjorie Van Nattan of Springfield, Illinois. Marjorie and her husband Laurence generously shared details about Finis E. Duff and his descendants. They also sent information about the Duff family which has been included in the publication "History of Early Settlers of Sangamon Co., Illinois, published by John Carroll Power in 1876. This book contains interesting facts about early pioneer life in Sangamon County.

Such sharing of family details, from relatives I have never seen, makes genealogy an interesting hobby. I do appreciate all the letters I have received. Some of them I have noted in this book, and some I have not, but I am grateful for all of the letters.

Sources: Census, 1850, Sangamon Co., Illinois
1860, Christian Co., Illinois
D. A. R. Marriage records, 1951, v.12
Family Correspondence

ELIZABETH WILBURN AND GREENBERRY DUFF FAMILY

II. ELIZABETH WILBURN - bn. ca. 1822 m. 11 October 1848 Greenberry Duff
bn. 10 August 1815 near Bowling Green, Kentucky

III. Cornelia Duff - bn. April, 1850

III. Finis E. Duff - bn. 11 January 1852 Christian Co., Illinois
d. 26 April 1927 m. 1 November 1876 Nancy Amanda Cross
bn. 31 March 1854 d. 11 September 1938

IV. Cyrus Edgar Duff - bn. 18 December 1877 d. 6 September 1950
buried Illiopolis, Illinois

IV. James Greenberry Duff - bn. 28 Sept. 1882 d. 11 Sept. 1962
buried Illiopolis, Illinois. m. 4 October 1905 Springfield
Illinois to Maude Vlerebome Johnston, bn. 9 March 1883
d. 28 April 1968, buried Illiopolis, Illinois

V. Marjorie Leah Duff - bn. 29 July 1906 Sangamon Co., Ill.
m. 14 September 1929 Menard Co., Ill. Laurence J. Van Nattan

IV. Della M. Duff - bn. 8 October 1884, d.1933 m. - Theiry

III. Betsy D. Duff - bn. ca. 1854

III. Verlinda Duff - bn. ca. 1856

III. William G. Duff - bn. ca. 1858

III. Everett Duff

III. Willard Duff

MARY WILBURN WILLCOX

Mary, like her sister Martha\Sarah\Sallie, went by another name part of the time. She is listed as Mary in the 1850 census, the marriage registration, and the Sangamon Co. history book. In the probate papers, her family refers to her as Polly. This was quite a common practise, and does serve to keep genealogists on their toes.

Mary was born in Illinois about 1828. She married William Willcox November 6, 1856. William was a native of Sangamon County, and a veteran of the Black Hawk War. William had been married to the former Nancy Ellis, but she had died October 2, 1852, leaving two sons, Ellis O. and George W. William and Mary farmed in Sangamon County three miles west of Berlin, Illinois, and had at least two more children, Charlotte and William Ben E.

Here my information ends.

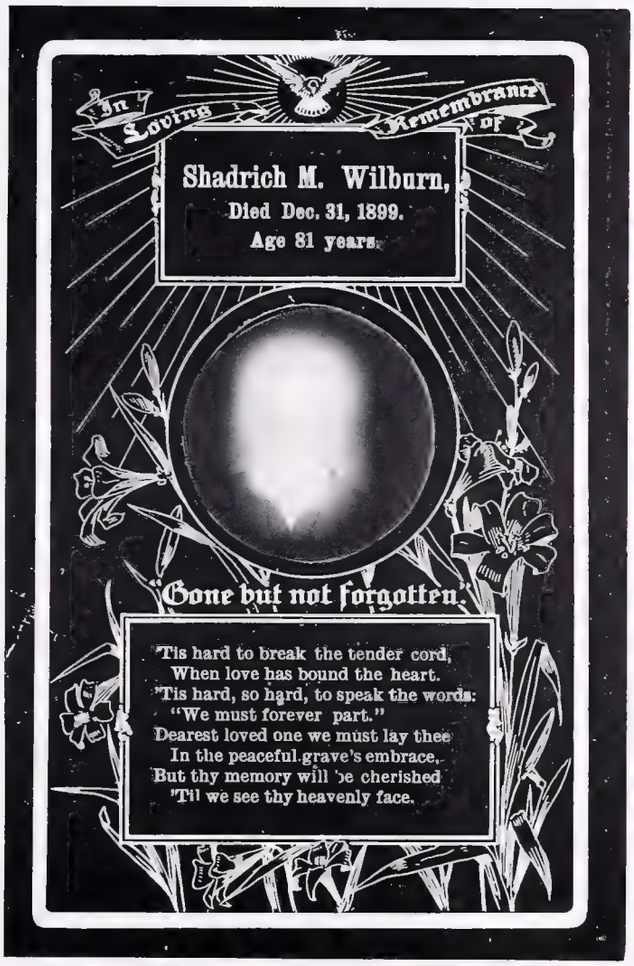
Sources: Illinois D. A. R. Marriage records, 1953, v.1
Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois
Census, 1850, Sangamon County, Illinois
Probate papers, Robert S. Wilburn

SAPHRONIA WILBURN HARDING

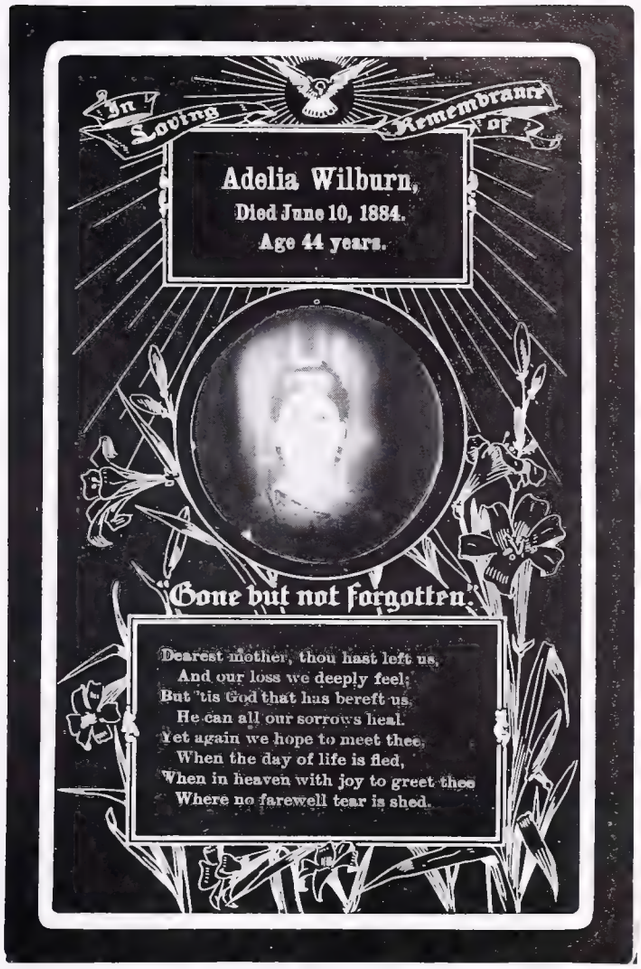
Saphronia was the youngest child of Robert and Elizabeth Wilburn. She was born about 1832. March 6, 1855 she married Andrew Harding in Sangamon County. I do not know where Andrew and Saphronia lived after that. Zachariah makes mention, in a letter written after his father's death, that his father died "at Hardin's house", so I would assume Robert went to the home of his youngest daughter in his last months. Robert and his wife Rachael (wife #2) had sold the farm to Alexander Irwin in 1865, two years before Robert's death. I would like to know what happened to Rachael after Robert's death. She was quite a bit younger than he. Perhaps she re-married. Perhaps Saphronia and Andrew made a home for her, even though she was not Saphronia's mother. All the unanswered questions, speculations, and searching for answers makes genealogy a fascinating hobby. If anyone reading this book knows some of the answers, please let me know.

Sources:

Census, 1850, Sangamon County, Illinois
Marriage records, Illinois D.A.R. 1952, v.2
Probate records, Robert S. Wilburn



SHADRICK M. WILBURN



ADELIA CAMPBELL WILBURN

MARY WILBURN WADSWORTH

HENRY WILBOURN FAMILY

SARAH WILBOURN / ORON JENNINGS FAMILY

SHADRICH M. WILBURN, JR.

LOUIS L. WILBURN, JESSIE AND LOUIS S.

ANGIE WILBURN

MAY WILBURN /CHRISTOPH DITSCH FAMILY

ELIZABETH MEYERS WILBURN

THOMAS A. WILBURN

FLOYD LEROY WILBURN

JOHN WILBURN

ARDREA L.WILBURN
MILDRED HARDIN
WEDDING PICTURE
1921

ELSIE WILBURN
FRANK E. DELLA
WEDDING PICTURE
1921

ARDREA L. WILBURN

MILDRED HARDIN WILBURN

MARJORIE WILBURN
JAMES JENSEN
FAMILY - - 1990
Back row - Virgil Gulley, Karla Gulley holding James Gulley, Ronald Jensen, Jim Jensen, Bill Funk.
2nd row - Brad Williams, Judy Ostendorff holding David Jensen, Sam Jensen, Marjorie Jensen, Connie Funk holding Daniel Funk.
Front row - Anne Williams, Matthew Williams, Drew Gulley, Natalie Funk.

FLOYD WILBURN/MAXINE CARR
FAMILY - - 1981
Back row - Donnelly Wilburn, Dr. Robt. Wilburn, Maxine Wilburn, Floyd Wilburn, Becky Williams, Mike Williams.
Front row - Patrick Wilburn, Helene Wilburn, Jodi Williams, John Williams

BIOGRAPHIES AND FAMILY GROUPS

From an old print, photo by Culver Service.

Much of the gold in California in the early days came from the beds of streams. Prospectors roamed the country examining every brook. Their method was simple, as you see. A shoveful of sand or mud is placed in a box and the box is shaken in the stream. The gold, being heavier, sinks to the bottom of the box; the mud or sand is washed away. This is called placer mining. Comparatively little placer mining is done now. At the present time most of the world's output of gold is obtained from deep mines and much heavy machinery is used to bring it to the surface.

It was the discovery of Shadrich Wilburn's obituary which inspired me to start researching the Wilburn family. That box of family obituaries, carefully preserved by my Grandmother Wilburn, was the start of a fascinating hobby of genealogy.

I hope you will find the story of Shadrich's life as interesting as I did. Here it is:

"Shadrich M. Wilburn was born in Frankford, Kentucky, August 26, 1818, and passed to the life beyond with the closing day of the year 1899, having seen the snows of eighty-one winters.

When four years of age, his parents removed to Springfield, Illinois, where he lived until the gold excitement in California. In 1852 he crossed the plains to the Golden Gate and engaged in mining, working in and owning a mine for sixteen years. While there he married Miss Adelia Campbell, and to their home came six children, who, with three born since leaving California, all live to mourn their father's death. In 1868 Mr. Wilburn was called to Springfield to settle his father's estate, and after four years there, moved to Butler county, Nebraska, in 1872; from there to Furnas county in 1879. He has been a farmer in Nebraska most of the time; the later years of his life, however, have been spent with his children. His companion passed on before him fifteen years ago. The children, now scattered, were in attendance at the funeral. Their names and residences are: Mrs. Almeda Bell, Alliance; Mrs. Mary Wadsworth, Oxford; Mr. Henry Wilburn, David City; Mrs. Sarah Jennings, Hendley; Mr. Louis Wilburn, Barr, Colo.; Mr. Thos. A. Wilburn, Red Cloud; Mr. Shadrich Wilburn, Seneca; Mrs. May Ditch, Atlanta, and Miss Angie Wilburn, Red Cloud.

They have the sympathy of the entire community, and the assurance of our respect for the memory of a father who so faithfully nurtured and trained his family so that all became valued citizens.

Our prayers are that we may all become and remain citizens of the Kingdom of God, and go to meet him whom we trust has gone on before, to join the innumerable company which no man can number in the city of our God.

The funeral services were conducted at the residence of Thomas A. Wilburn, in Red Cloud, by Rev. R. A. Barnes, of the M. E. Church, and the remains rest in the cemetery near the city."

You will note the obituary lists Frankford, Kentucky as the place of birth. Other records place the family in Cumberland County, which is on the Kentucky-Tennessee border. I assumed Frankford means Frankfort, Kentucky. However, Frankfort is much farther north and east of Cumberland County. In the present time, no Frankford is listed in Kentucky. I cannot explain this discrepancy, unless the family had left Cumberland County by 1818 and was looking for new and promising farm

land, which they eventually found in Sangamon County, near Pleasant Plains, Illinois. Here Shadrich stayed and helped on the farm until, at the age of 34, he headed for new adventures in California.

I have wondered about Shadrich's trip to California, and the method of transportation. I found references, in Power's "Early Settlers of Sangamon County", to a rather large group of people who headed for the California gold fields in 1852. It seems quite evident that Shadrich was part of this expedition. They must have had a certain amount of apprehension. The ill-fated Donner party who, in the winter of 1846-47 had suffered so terribly, had also started from Sangamon County. The Donner party had been trapped by a blizzard near Lake Tahoe at what is now called Donner Pass. Many of the party had frozen or starved. I do not know how many were in the 1852 expedition, but I did find this reference to the trip in relation to a Mr. Reubon Corson, whose family also lived near Pleasant Plains, Illinois.

"On March 18, 1852, he started across the plains. They were more than five months in reaching the mountains in California, traveling by covered wagon. After leaving Ft. Joe, Missouri the country was wild and unsettled. There were few forts and they saw many Indians, but were unmolested because at this time so many companies were passing that the Indians were afraid to attack them. Some of the company died of cholera."

Shadrich was not married when he left for California and I do not have his date of marriage. The eldest child, Almeda, was born in 1856, so I would guess he was married about 1854 or 1855. Adelia Campbell, his bride, was much younger than he. The ages of both Shadrich and Adelia vary from one census to the next. They vary, also, as to where Adelia was born. The 1860 census lists her birthplace as Ireland. A later census says New York. There were several Campbell families in Sangamon County, so her family was possibly among those who had also come from Sangamon County to California in search of gold.

To add more details to the story of Shadrich's life, I asked older relatives for any recollections they might have. This was in 1978. My grandparents had, of course, died many years earlier, as had all members of that generation. My Dad had been under 4 years old when his Grandfather lived with their family and then died. Dad did have one vivid recollection which might be amusing in retrospect. I'm sure it was not at all amusing at the time. Grandad Shadrich chewed tobacco. One day he took a little trip to the outhouse. Dad saw him go in and, filled with the curiosity of a three-year old, peeked through a knot-hole. Shadrich, seeing an eye at the knot-hole, and resenting this invasion of his privacy, let fly with his ready-made ammunition of tobacco juice. His aim was perfect. Right on target. In telling the story almost eighty years later, Dad said, "A thing like that, you never forget."

After that rather startling revelation, I wrote to my Dad's older brother, Uncle John. He would have been the only other member of the family to have any stories to tell of his Grandad Shadrich. Uncle John did answer my letter, and had another family anecdote which I will pass on to you.

"Grandad Shadrich went to California during the gold rush. He found gold and opened a gold mine. Uncle Shade (maybe his name was Shadrich) had and wore gold rings made from the gold that came from the mine. My recollection is that one day Grandad went to the mine and was met at the entrance by a man with a gun. He told my Grandad that the mine now belonged to him. One look at the gun convinced my Grandad of the situation. That ended his gold mine experience.

Grandad came to live with us in Red Cloud, Nebraska. At that time he was about 80 years old. We kept a cow in the barn for the milk we needed. The cow had been out to pasture during the summer. In the fall she had a calf and we brought the cow and calf home. We milked the cow for the milk, but saved some for the calf. It was Grandad's job to feed the calf. He decided that the milk was too cold so he heated it on the stove. He tested the temperature by dipping his finger in the milk. Evidently his finger was crusty and not a good indicator. Anyway after feeding the calf hot milk for a week or ten days it was too much. The calf died.

Grandad died in Red Cloud about 1899. He was buried in the Red Cloud cemetery. No doubt you can locate the burial place and read the inscription on the gravestone."

I hope it doesn't seem too irreverent to include these incidents. I don't mean to discredit the dead. I do think it's important to see our ancestors as being very human with the frailties and shortcomings we all have. The eulogies and County History biographies portray all the early pioneers as brave, stalwart, kind, loving, and noble. That was possibly true, but in order to survive the rigors of pioneer life, these men and women had to be very rugged individualists. They may have disagreed with their neighbors and family from time to time. They may have been described as tenacious or stubborn according to one's point of view. I'm sure Shadrich had loyal friends. He may have had bitter enemies. He was undoubtedly a strong-willed individual who led an interesting life in an exciting era.

Sources: Family information
Probate papers - Robert S. Wilburn
Census: 1850, Sangamon County, Illinois
1860, Sacramento County, California
1880, Harlan County, Nebraska

THE FAMILY OF SHADRICH M. WILBURN

Shadrich and Adelia Campbell Wilburn had 9 children as follows:

II. SHADRICH M. WILBURN - bn. 26 August 1818 Kentucky. d. 31 December 1899 Red Cloud, Nebraska. m. in California Adelia Campbell, bn. 1840 d. 10 June 1884 Furnas County, Nebraska

III. Almeda Wilburn - bn. 5 September 1856, Sacramento Co., California d. 1918 Gering Nebraska. m. 26 December 1880 James Bell bn. 1 June 1846 New York City d. 1923. bur. Gering, Nebraska

III. Mary Elizabeth Wilburn - bn. 3 June 1858, California m. - Wadsworth d. 9 June 1938 California

III. William Henry Wilbourn - bn. 22 March 1860, California. d.4 August 1930 bur. Ulysses, Nebraska. m. 12 February 1880 Mabel Agnes Eaton bn. 3 December 1870 d. 18 July 1934, bur. Ulysses, Nebraska

III. Sarah A. Wilbourn - bn. 6 May 1862, California d. 21 August 1939 bur. Hendley, Nebraska. m. 30 November 1892 Oron E. Jennings d. 7 July 1930 bur. Hendley, Nebraska

III. Louis Lincoln Wilburn - bn. 7 March 1864., California. d. 6 March 1930, m. Nettie Hanning. (Later divorced)

III. Thomas Albertas Wilburn - bn.8 February 1866, California d.2 December 1924 m. 20 June 1891 Hendley, Nebraska, Elizabeth Regina Meyers, bn. 18 February 1875 Hendley, Nebraska d.27 Sept. 1959

III. Shadrich M. Wilburn, Jr. - bn. 27 January 1869, Sangamon County, Illinois d. 7 July 1921, Hendley, Nebraska. Unmarried

III. Cynthia May Wilburn - bn. 29 May 1872, Ulysses, Nebraska d. 13 June 1954, Littleton, Colorado. m. 23 June 1897 Christoph Ditsch bn. 24 August 1864 d. 28 March 1929, Littleton, Colorado

III. Angeline Emmaline Wilburn - bn. 26 March 1875, Ulysses, Nebraska d. 9 April 1957 bur. Hendley, Nebraska. Unmarried.

ALMEDA WILBURN BELL

Most of the information I have concerning Almeda Wilburn was obtained from obituaries of both Almeda and her husband, James Bell. There was also a copy of a letter written by my Dad in 1973 to Mrs. Vera Scruggs of Omaha. Vera is also interested in Wilburn genealogy and had asked my Dad to give her some family information. Dad had written, in part - "Aunt Mede married Jim Bell, a rancher in the western part of Nebraska. They had two boys, Shady and Wilber. I believe Wilber is around Gering, but I don't know for sure. I also do not know about Shady."

Almeda's obituary was headed "EXCELLENT GERING WOMAN DECEASED", with the sub-head "Mrs. Almeda Bell died Monday last - aged sixty-one years - buried Wednesday afternoon."

Her obituary follows:

The Courier records with regret the death of Mrs. James Bell, who died at the family home in this city Monday evening, aged sixty-one years. Having been a resident of Gering for many years, the deceased lady was quite well known, and sincere sympathy is felt toward the bereaved family. Funeral services were held Wednesday from the Methodist church, conducted by the pastor, Rev. G. W. Snyder, and burial made at Westlawn cemetery.

Almeda Wilburn was born in Sacramento City, California September 5th, 1856. When she was twelve years of age her parents moved to Springfield, Illinois. They lived there four years, and in 1872 they moved to Butler county, Nebraska, where in the early years of her life she united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and she was a faithful member of this church when the call came to join the church above. In 1879 her parents moved to Furnas county, Nebraska, where her mother died, leaving to her care as eldest sister eight younger brothers and sisters. This duty she cheerfully performed, proving herself both mother and sister. On December 26th, 1880, she was married to James Bell, to which union three children were born, Shadrich of Selway, Montana, Wilber of Gering,, Maude having died in infancy. To these she was ever a faithful wife and loving mother. Besides, she leaves to mourn her departure four brothers and four sisters, Mrs. Mary Wadsworth of Healdsburg, California; Mr. Henry Wilburn of Ulysses, Nebraska; Mrs. Sarah Jennings of Hendley, Nebraska; Lewis Wilburn of Hendley, Nebraska; Angie Wilburn of Hendley, Nebraska, Thomas Wilburn of Hendley, Nebraska; Shade Wilburn of Seattle, Washington, and May Ditsch of Denver, Colorado.

Almeda's husband, James Bell, survived her five years before he, too, died. Part of this time was spent in Burkett, Nebraska at the Soldiers' Home as related in his obituary below:

James Bell, Civil war veteran, and member of the Soldiers' Home at Burkett, Nebraska, passed away at the St. Francis hospital at 7:40 p.m.

Monday. Blood poisoning, resulting from an infection in the hand caused by a scratch, was the cause of death. Several days ago, when the seriousness of his condition was realized, he was transferred from the Soldiers' Home hospital to St. Francis hospital, where his death occurred.

Mr. Bell was born in New York City on June 1, 1846 and was aged 77 years. With his parents he moved to Michigan in 1858 and at the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted for service from that state.

Surviving him are two sons, Wilber Bell, of Grand Island, and S. J. Bell, of Ashland, Montana as also a brother, Joe Bell, of Muskegon, Michigan, and one sister, Mrs. Sarah Goodno, of Union City, Michigan. His wife preceded him in death in 1918.

Funeral services will be held from the Soldiers' Home chapel at 2 p.m. Wednesday. Rev. J. Henry Stitt officiating. The body will be taken to Gering, Nebraska, his former home, for burial.

I have no information about the descendants of Almeda and James Bell, except for the names of their children, Shadrich J. and Wilber, and daughter Maude who died in infancy. Among my Grandmother's pictures was that of a very handsome young couple marked, in my Grandmother's handwriting, "Shady Bell and wife". Perhaps someday I will learn more of this family.

Sources: Family information
Newspapers obituaries

MARY WILBURN WADSWORTH

I know very few details about Mary Wilburn Wadsworth. In the letter referred to in Almeda Wilburn's biography, my Dad said, "Aunt Mary Wadsworth lived in Sacramento, California for many years. She had two boys, Claud and Oscar. I don't think either one married. One of them was a professional photographer and lived with his mother until her death. I believe both boys are gone now." (1973)

I had also been told that after my Grandfather Wilburn's death in 1924, my Grandmother and Aunt Angie spent some time in California visiting Aunt Mary Wadsworth. Her residence listed in Grandad's obituary was Healdsburg, California, not Sacramento. There were some photographs in Grandma's photo album, showing the three women - Grandma, Aunt Angie, and Aunt Mary - under palm trees. I remember being especially impressed with a picture of Grandma in a cart being pulled by a huge ostrich. Perhaps they were visiting a 1920's version of Disneyland! There is also a nice professional photo labeled "Mary Wilburn Wadsworth". Perhaps it was the work of her photographer son.

My Dad was not able to tell me anything about Mary Wadsworth's husband. He evidently died when their boys were very small. When Mary's father, Shadrich M. Wilburn, died in 1899, the obituary lists Mary as a resident of Oxford, Nebraska. A check of the 1900 soundex shows her with a third son, Herbert. Perhaps Herbert did not survive to adulthood.

Sources: Family information
Soundex - 1900 - Oxford, Nebraska

THE FAMILY OF ALMEDA WILBURN BELL

III. ALMEDA WILBURN - bn. 5 September 1856, Sacramento City, California
d. 1918, Gering, Nebraska. m.26 December, 1880 James Bell, bn. 1 June 1846, New York City, d.1923, St. Francis, Kansas. (Had lived at Soldiers' Home, Burkett, Nebraska)

IV. Shadrich J. Bell

IV. Wilber Bell

IV. Maude Bell - d. in infancy

THE FAMILY OF MARY WILBURN WADSWORTH

III. MARY ELIZABETH WILBURN - bn. June 3, 1858, California
d. 9 June 1938. m. - Wadsworth

IV. Herbert Wadsworth - August 1878

IV. Claude Wadsworth - October 1886

IV. Oscar Wadsworth - November 1888

WILLIAM HENRY WILBOURN

William Henry was known as Henry, and he spelled his last name "Wilbourn", as did one of his sisters, Sarah. He was born in California and came to Sangamon County, Illinois and then Butler County, Nebraska with his family. In Nebraska he married Mabel Agnes Eaton. Here they farmed and raised their family of five children. Their first farm was northeast of Ulysses, and was owned by Mabel's father. After Mr. Eaton's death in 1917 that farm was sold, so Henry and Mabel moved to Archer, Nebraska. Later they moved to Aurora, and still later to Waco, Nebraska. Both Henry and Mabel are buried in the cemetery near the Methodist church in Ulysses, Nebraska.

Vera Gaskill Scruggs of Omaha, Nebraska has provided me with an impressive family chart for the descendants of Henry and Mabel Wilbourn. Vera is their granddaughter and has had a life-long interest in keeping track of the births, marriages, and deaths in this large family.

Though I have never met Vera, I have appreciated the time and effort she and her son Verle have spent preparing a copy of their family tree. I hope I have deciphered it correctly. I have enjoyed my correspondence with her, and also with her sister, Lucille Gaskill McCoy of Moore, Oklahoma.

Lucille wrote a few family anecdotes which the reader may enjoy. The first involved a youthful Henry, his father Shadrich, and a quince tree. It probably took place in California. Shadrich had admonished Henry not to pick the quince at the top of the tree. Of course, forbidden fruit is the best, so when his father wasn't looking, Henry climbed the tree and picked the prize quince. Disobeying one's father is a dangerous thing to do, as Henry discovered. After being warned of an impending spanking "no matter when you come home", Henry waited until almost midnight to try to creep into the house. No good. Shadrich had sharp ears and Henry had a sore bottom before he reached his bed.

A later story which Henry had told Lucille explained why Henry did not care for radishes. One time he went to town to buy turnip seed, but was sold radish seed instead. There was an abundant crop. The Wilbourns ate lots of radishes that summer, but in later years couldn't face another radish.

Lucille spent many summers at the home of Henry and Mabel Wilbourn, and has happy memories of loving grandparents and fun on their farm. She especially remembers her Grandad's sense of humor and the way he liked to entertain his friends with funny stories, both fact and fiction.

I do not have the obituary of William Henry Wilbourn, but I do have the one for his wife, Mabel. It follows:

The angel of death again visited this community, taking the life of a mother, Mrs. Mabel Wilbourn, Wednesday evening about seven-thirty. She has been a patient sufferer for the past two years. She has not been bedfast much of the time and her death came as a shock to her family and friends. She was a loving mother and true friend and neighbor. Funeral

services were held Friday at one o'clock at her home east of town and at two-thirty in the M. E. church in Ulysses, Rev. W. A. Boden, pastor of the church, officiating. Burial took place in the cemetery near the church.

Mabel Agnes Eaton was born at Waunata, Indiana December 3, 1870 and died July 18, 1934. She came with her parents to Butler county, Nebraska at the age of nine years. She was married to Wm. Henry Wilbourn February 12, 1888. To this union were born five children, Mrs. Pearl Gaskill of Ulysses; Mrs. Ruby Gaskill of Seward; Orland Wilbourn at home; James Wilbourn of Ulysses; Mrs. Stella Crapenhoft of Seward. Her husband preceded her four years ago and also a daughter, Ruby. She also leaves two brothers and two sisters, Gilbert Eaton of White River, South Dakota; Orland Eaton of Marquette; Mrs. Lula Jones of Litchfield; Mrs. Gracie Lehker of North Liberty, Indiana; and nineteen grandchildren besides many other relatives and friends. Their sorrow was made greater when news of the death of an aunt at Waverly came. Funeral services were held for her on the day after Mrs. Wilbourn's funeral.

Sources: Family information
Newspaper obituary
Census - 1860 - Sacramento Co. Cal.

III. WILLIAM HENRY WILBOURN - bn. 22 March 1860 California. d. 4 August 1930 bur. Ulysses, Nebraska. m. 12 February 1888 Mabel Agnes Eaton bn. 3 December 1870 d. 18 July 1934 bur. Ulysses, Nebraska.

IV. Martha PEARL Wilbourn - bn. 3 August 1888. d. 5 April 1947 m. 6 February 1907 William Frederick Gaskill bn. 5 May 1885 d. 28 May 1969

V. Vera Estella Gaskill - bn. 26 October 1907 m. #1 - Smith m. #2 15 May 1943 Abe Deering Scruggs bn. 24 July 1900 d. 21 June 1962

VI. Verle Dean Smith - bn. 28 September 1939

VI. Darlene Marie Scruggs - bn. 25 August 1944 m. #1 2 November 1959 Afton J. Pruitt 2nd bn. 27 November 1938 m. #2 3 September 1986 William Van Erp bn. 24 March 1943

VII. Angelia Glie Pruitt - bn. 24 September 1960 m. #1 19 June 1981 Todd Allen Burris bn. 22 August 1958 m. #2 14 December 1987 Rick Lyell

VIII. Tabatha Erin Burris - bn. 3 September 1980

VIII. Amanda Lee Burris - bn. 3 April 1984

VIII. Alexandra Rose Lyell - bn. 17 February 1989

VII. Afton Aubrey Pruitt 3rd - bn. 2 November 1961 m. 26 July 1980 Paula Snow bn. 27 March 1965

VIII. Afton Aubrey Pruitt, Jr. - bn. 2 Febr. 1980

VII. Dwight Deering Pruitt - bn. 17 November 1962 m. 11 April 1987 Patricia Marie Nichols

VII. Deon Cletus Pruitt - bn. 20 December 1963

VII. Anthony James Pruitt - bn. 12 January 1965 m. 8 July 1988 Holly Bower

VIII. Tamara Pruitt - bn. 18 September 1987

VII. Dustin Dean Pruitt - bn. 19 March 1969

VI. Glenn Lee Scruggs - bn. 4 January 1946 m. 23 June 1967 Joan Marie Seefus bn. 6 September 1948

VII. Mark Allen Scruggs - bn. 8 May 1968

VI. John Robert Scruggs - bn. 17 July 1947 m. 20 Aug. 1966 Sharon Kae Seefus bn. 10 December 1945

VII. John Robert Scruggs, Jr. bn. 23 January 1968 m. 26 December 1987 Jacqueline C. Cornett

VII. Paul Michael Scruggs - bn. 5 April 1972

V. Richard Cecil Gaskill - bn. 24 July 1909 d. 29 August 1935

V. Robert Henry Gaskill - bn. 22 March 1911 d. 11 November 1912

V. Mary LUCILLE Gaskill - bn. 18 April 1914 m. 15 March 1942 Eugene Mark McCoy bn. 11 October 1903 d. 21 March 1989

VI. Robert Eugene McCoy - bn. 5 October 1943 m. #1 22 September 1962 Jean Lemley bn. 1 May 1942 m. #2 25 June 1980 Mariope Antoniadou

VII. Diana Sue McCoy - bn. 9 February 1963 m. 7 November 1981 Michael Root

VIII. Christopher Jacob Root - bn. 24 July 1980

VIII. Michael Ray Root - bn. 21 June 1982

VIII. Jason Scott Root - bn. 6 January 1986

VII. Denise Ann McCoy - bn. 5 March 1964

VI. Judith Lynn McCoy - bn. 10 August 1948 m. 19 December 1971 Herbert Lynn Boyd bn. 11 December 1947

VII. Michelle Lynn Boyd - bn. 17 January 1973

VII. Kimberly Dawn Boyd - bn. 17 January 1978

VII. Steven Wayne Boyd - bn. 26 September 1979

V. Dewayne Frederick Gaskill - bn. 9 April 1917 m. 26 June 1940 Rose Sloup - bn. 7 July 1921

VI. Carol Rae Gaskill - bn. 15 April 1943 m. 6 September 1969 Steve Work

VII. Jeannie Frances Work - bn. 25 March 1971

VII. Lori Kae Work - bn. 6 October 1976

VI. Robin Sue Gaskill - bn. 16 June 1955 m. 26 June 1976 Manter Hamilton Bock 2nd

VII. Manter Hamilton Bock 3rd - bn. 22 May 1977

VII. Jayne Erin Bock - bn. 11 March 1982

VII. Turner Bock - bn. 1 April 1985

V. Dorothy Evelyn Gaskill - bn. 30 January 1919 m. 21 Febr. 1938 Dean J. Wrede - bn. 10 March 1907 d. 6 January 1984

VI. Willis Eugene Wrede - bn. 30 August 1938 m. 24 June 1961 Sharon Kay Coy - bn. 2 April 1943

VII. Diana Lynne Wrede - bn. 15 July 1962 m. 26 June 1984 Charles Berens

VIII. Jennifer Berens - bn. 20 April 1986

VI. Sharon Kay Wrede - bn. 10 July 1942 m. #1 7 October 1961 Gary Russells bn. 23 February 1940 m.#2 Dale Russells m. #3 2 April 1989 Jim Weir bn. 30 January 1934

VII. Lorinda Kay Russells - bn. 27 August 1962 m. Brian Swinehart. Div.

VIII. Andrea Russells - bn. 29 January 1981

VII. Cynthia Darlene Russells - bn. 2 July 1964

VII. Carrie Ann Russells - bn. 20 September 1967 m. ?

VIII. Adam Gary ? - bn. 2 December 1985

VII. Jerris Evelyn Russells - bn. 19 December 1970

VII. Walter Dean Russells - bn. 7 August 1974

VI. Richard Dean Wrede - bn. 30 April 1946

V. Arlene MAXINE Gaskill - bn. 28 April 1921 m. 25 April 1940 George Joseph Niemann - bn. 23 June 1916

VI. Mariann Niemann - bn. 6 February 1942 m. #1 8 April 1961 Eugene Shalon bn. 3 March 1935 m.#2 23 June 1979 Francis Long b.1940

VII. Eugene Thomas Shalon, Jr. bn. 28 March 1962

VII. Nancy Shalon - bn. 19 April 1963

VII. Dennis Joseph Shalon - bn. 8 August 1965
m. 6 May 1985 Debbie Myrick

VIII. Daphne Shalon

VI. George Joseph Niemann, Jr. - bn. 7 September 1943
m. 11 October 1961 Betty Tesinsky bn. 2 September 1944
d. 19 December 1983

VII. Randy Dean Niemann - bn. 22 February 1962
m. 27 September 1986 Jeannie Machacek

VIII. Colton Randall Niemann - bn. 21 July 1989

VII. Douglas Brian Niemann - bn. 6 January 1963
m. 9 November 1985 Renee Jean Komenda

VIII. Shannon Marie Niemann - bn. 22 July 1986

VIII. Wesley Alan Niemann - bn. 6 September 1988

VII. Steve Niemann - bn. 5 May 1964 m. 22 October 1988
Linda Machacek

VII. George Joseph Niemann - bn. 4 July 1969

VI. Donald Lee Niemann - bn. 21 February 1945 m. 28 November
1964 Sharon Kucera - bn. 30 June 1946

VII. Donald Lee Niemann Jr. - bn. 17 September 1965
m. 23 September 1989 Nancy Kay Machacek

VII. Cynthia Ann Niemann - bn. 31 October 1966
m. 4 October 1986 Larry Harrold

VIII. Danielle Rae Harrold - bn. 3 March 1987

VIII. Jessica Lynn Harrold - bn. 15 September 1989

VII. Brian Joseph Niemann - bn. 1 November 1971

VI. Gary David Niemann - bn. 28 August 1947 m. 10 June 1972
Louise Ann Svoboda b. 3 November 1953

VII. Leslie Anne Niemann - bn. 21 September 1972

VII. Gary David Niemann Jr. bn. 22 March 1975

VII. Crystal Niemann

VII. Sophie Louise Niemann - bn. 29 September 1979

VI. Marjorie Niemann - bn. 2 September 1950 m. #1 12 June 1967 George Petrzilka bn. 15 September 1947 m. #2 6 December 1969 Kenneth Ladwig. m. #3 July 1981 - Houser

VII. Todd Petrzilka - bn. 9 December 1967 d. 10 December 1967

VII. Michael Allen Ladwig - bn. 16 October 1970

V. Floyd Ellsworth Gaskill - bn. 28 October 1922 d. 31 Dec. 1922

V. Annis Ruth Gaskill - bn. 23 November 1923 m. 22 September 1945 Herbert Rudolph Ganowsky - bn. 4 August 1911

VI. Mary Ruth Ganowsky - bn. 29 April 1953 m.#1 6 December 1972 Michael Collier bn. 29 May 1949 #2 4 April 1983 Thomas Kane bn. 12 June 1955

VII. Michelle Marie Collier - bn. 15 June 1972

VII. Skylar Gustav Kane - bn. 28 June 1985

VII. Trevor Justin Kane - bn. 5 June 1987

VI. Lori Sue Ganowsky - bn. 6 December 1958 m. #1 19 March 1980 William Arthur McFarlane m.#2 14 January 1989 Jamie Warden bn. 24 October 1958

VII. Sara Ann McFarlane - bn. 25 September 1980

VII. Stacey Renee McFarlane - bn. 25 September 1980

V. Alberta Verle Gaskill - bn. 1 December 1925 d. 12 December 1925

IV. Ruby Agnes Wilbourn - bn. 9 March 1891 d.17 April 1934 m. 5 April 1911 Andrew Francis Gaskill - bn. 18 March 1889 d. 20 August 1975

V. Fern Josephine Gaskill - bn. 17 October 1911 d. 16 April 1989 m. 9 June 1934 Frank Doremus bn. 8 April 1912 d. 7 Febr. 1972

VI. Joyce Elaine Doremus - bn. 12 February 1937 m 1952 Don Rossiter bn. 7 October 1938

VII. Ruth Ann Rossiter - bn. 21 December 1953

m. 7 June 1970 Victor Jones

VIII. Jason Lang Jones - bn. 1 December 1970

VIII. Chasity Renee Jones - bn. 3 July 1973

VIII. - Jones - bn. 9 August 1975

VIII. Jarrett Allen Jones - bn. 20 August 1977

VII. Dianna Lynn Rossiter - bn. 28 May 1958
m. 7 August 1976 Douglas Travis

VIII. - Travis - bn. 3 February 1978

VI. Dorothy Marie Doremus - bn. 6 November 1938 m.14 May 1956 Delbert Wolcott bn. 3 November 1936 d. -

VII. Delbert LeRoy Wolcott - bn. 1 January 1957
d.4 September 1978

VII. Debbie Lee Wolcott - bn. 30 January 1958
m. 26 June 1976 Rubin Travis

VIII. ? Travis - bn. November 1977

VIII. - Travis - bn. June 1979

VII. David Wayne Wolcott - bn. 29 November 1958

VI. Francis Fern Doremus - bn. 20 August 1940 m. 19 October 1957 Gail Williams bn. 28 October 1935

VII. Jodi Rae Williams - bn. 3 March 1959

VII. Jamie Williams - bn. 8 January 1961 d. 4 July 1963

VII. Terri Williams - bn. 1962

VII. Tami Sue Williams - bn. 14 June 1963

V. Cecil Robert Gaskill - bn. 23 November 1912 m. 4 January 1936 Dorothy Young - bn. 3 January 1917

VI. Betty Jean Gaskill - bn. 18 December 1937 m. Anton Dolezal

VII. Jeannie Dolezal - m. 15 May 1982 - Pape

VII. Bruce Mark Dolezal bn. 12 December 1957
m. 9 May 1981 Francine Vetick

VIII. Susan Ann Dolezal - bn. 30 August 1986

V. Gladys Mabel Gaskill - bn. 7 November 1913 d. 9 October 1942
m. 16 March 1939 Laurence Wensicker

VI. Beverly Jean Wensicker - bn. 24 December 1939

VI. Shirley Ann Wensicker - bn. 18 March 1941 m. June 1958
Richard Ellsworth Rand bn. 1939

V. Murvin Kenneth Gaskill - bn. 9 September 1915 m. 3 October 1945
Evelyn Hamilton - bn. 20 October 1927

VI. Donna Sue Gaskill - bn. 20 May 1946 m. James E. Donahoo

VII. Deron Jay Donahoo

VI. Michael Dane Gaskill - bn. 18 January 1956

VI. Jeffrey Allen Gaskill - bn. 28 August 1965

IV. Orley Earl Wilbourn - bn. 20 December 1892 d. 16 March 1971

IV. James Bryan Wilbourn - bn. 30 August 1897 d. 4 December 1969
m. 28 February 1920 Gladys Celeste Davis - bn. 19 October 1896
d. 6 August 1967

V. Grace Eilene Wilbourn - bn. 17 January 1921 d. 16 December 1974
m. 1 November 1938 William Swanda - bn. 2 February 1906
d. 28 September 1982

VI. Anna Mae Swanda - bn. 2 August 1939 m. 11 February 1961
Herbert Montagne - bn. 1939

VII. Carolyn Renee Montagne - bn. 2 December 1960

VI. Virginia Leigh Swanda - bn. 2 March 1941 m. 2 Nov. 1960
Paul Lee Rogers bn. 9 October 1939

VII. Michael Lee Rogers - bn. 15 July 1961

VI. Marjorie Barbara Swanda - bn. 24 November 1942
m. #1 26 November 1960 Robert T. Koll bn. 6 January 1941
m. #2 Orbie Leon Burwell, Jr. bn. 11 June 1941

VII. Terrence Daniel Koll - bn. 12 May 1961

VI. William Dale Swanda - bn. 5 January 1946

VI. Joseph Henry Swanda - bn. 12 February 1949

VI. Doris Blanche Swanda - bn. 24 March 1956 m. 27 April 1978

VI. James George Dean Swanda - bn. 7 April 1959

V. Richard Dale Wilbourn - bn. 8 January 1923 d. 19 May 1989
m. 27 August 1947 Mabel Barr bn. 27 December 1921 d. 19 May 1989

VI. Richard Bruce Wilbourn - bn. 7 July 1948 m. 21 June 1975
Margaret Rosella Rientyes bn. 3 July 1954

VII. Nathan Andrew Wilbourn - bn. 26 January 1979

VII. Jennifer Lauren Wilbourn - bn. 16 March 1981

VI. Ronald Dale Wilbourn - bn. 6 August 1950 m. 16 June 1978
Judith Kathleen Randolph bn. 31 May 1951

VII. Samuel Randolph Wilbourn - bn. 27 January 1982

VI. Catherine Jean Wilbourn - bn. 27 March 1953 m. 11 July
1981 Terry Lee Prout - bn. 19 May 1952

VII. Janine Laura Prout - bn. 2 February 1983

VII. Owen Richard Prout - bn. 1 July 1988

V. Leona Blanche Wilbourn - bn. 16 November 1924 d. 2 December 1955
m. 7 December 1944 Edward E. Harrison bn. 5 July 1921 d. 6 Aug. 1971

VI. Stephen Earl Harrison - bn. 6 August 1945 m. 8 Sept. 1973
Leslie Scott bn. 11 January 1944

VII. Shad Nicholes Harrison - bn. 2 July 1975

VII. Scott Nicholes Harrison - bn. 3 July -

VI. Patrick Earl Harrison - bn. 11 July 1949 m. 18 June 1971
Terry Lynn Orback

VII. Patrick Lee Harrison - bn. 5 May 1972

V. Lois Nadine Wilbourn - bn. 7 January 1926 d. 8 August 1984
m. 14 June 1947 Melvin C. Logan bn. 9 June 1921 d. 11 Aug. 1988

V. James Henry Wilbourn - bn. 15 May 1929 m. 18 October 1960
Louise Olson bn. February 1929 Div.

VI. Anita Marie Wilbourn - bn. 6 April 1961

VI. Loretta Dawn Wilbourn - bn. 23 July 1962

IV. Stella Adna Wilbourn - bn. 28 September 1901 d. 9 May 1954
m. 1 May 1919 John Crapenhoft bn. 27 May 1901 d 19 May 1964

V. LaVern Fannie Crapenhoft - bn. 19 April 1922 m. 1 October 1938
Amo Reed Durnell - bn. 11 March 1919

VI. Noland Reed Durnell - bn. 27 November 1939 m. 9 June 1959
Melba Darlene Rakestraw bn. 14 August -

VII. Terry Lynn Durnell - bn. 13 March 1962

VII. Amy Jeanelle Durnell - bn. 5 June 1964

VII. Betty Jean Durnell - bn. 27 April 1971

VI. Owen Amo Durnell - bn. 2 January 1942 m. Charlotte -
bn. 1 August 1943

VII. Ken Durnell - bn. 21 September 1970

VII. Hope Durnell - bn. 5 January 1978

VI. Perry Edwin Durnell - bn. 19 March 1947 m. 5 February 1966
Betty Jane Miller bn. 23 November 1946

VII. Dean Edwin Durnell - bn. 27 November 1966

VII. Betty Gail Durnell - bn. 27 April 1971

VII. Stacey Reed Durnell - bn. 6 October 1973

V. Doris Mae Crapenhoft - bn. 1 December 1924 d. 19 March 1925

V. Genieve Rose Crapenhoft - bn. 22 March 1926 m.#1 4 September 1943
Charles Day, Jr. m.#2 13 May 1950 Tom Richardson bn. 23 Jan. 1927

VI. Carolyn Ruth Richardson - bn. 1 January 1951

VI. John Michael Richardson - bn. 27 April 1954

VI. Robert Earl Richardson - bn. 3 September 1961

V. Clifford Earl Crapenhoft - bn. 10 October 1931 m. 25 December 1952
Janice McAdow bn. 14 January 1933

VI. Robert Earl Crapenhoft - bn. 28 August 1957

VI. James Alan Crapenhoft - bn. 8 September 1959

VI. Susan Crapenhoft - bn. 3 June 1971

V. Russell Clayton Crapenhoft bn. 9 July 1942 m. 20 October 1961
Jane Snadon bn. 26 November 1943

VI. Mark David Crapenhoft - bn. 20 November 1963

VI. Le Ann Crapenhoft - bn. 8 December 1966

V. Richard Lee Crapenhoft - bn. 28 December 1943 m. - January 1964
Beverly Ann Whitehead bn. 14 November 1943

VI. Michael Lee Crapenhoft - bn. 5 August 1964

VI. Gary Crapenhoft

VI. Julie Crapenhoft

SARAH WILBOURN JENNINGS

I distinctly remember Aunt Sarah Jennings. She was a widow by the time I can remember. She lived in a rather Victorian-looking two story house south of Beaver City, Nebraska. The most interesting feature of the house, I had thought, was sort of a circular turret with a pointed roof at one corner of the house. I suppose on the inside that was the stairway.

Our family visited Aunt Sarah fairly often. Her son Lawrence was not well and required quite a lot of care, so it was not easy for Sarah to get away.

The Jennings family had formerly lived on a farm near the neighboring town of Hendley, Nebraska. In 1973 Hendley celebrated its centennial. As a part of this celebration, a commemorative booklet was published. It contained biographies of some of the pioneer families of the area. The Jennings family biography was included, as follows:

In the early 1870's Oron E. Jennings came to this country from Red Oak, Iowa. The nearest he could get here by train was to Plum Creek, which is now Lexington, Nebraska, and he walked from there to what is now Hendley.

He was a young lad at this time and made his home with the I. S. Meyers family, where he worked for Mr. Meyers for quite a few years and he was one of the few who learned to ride the buffalo.

Later his mother, Ruhama Finney Jennings, his brother and sister, Julia Jennings, came to this country in a covered wagon and homesteaded one mile west and one mile south of Hendley. After improving on the homestead his mother, step-father, Levi Tryon, other brothers and sisters moved to Beaver City, Nebraska. Levi Tryon was a U. S. Soldier and he is buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery at Beaver City.

On November 30, 1892, Oron E. Jennings and Sarah A. Wilburn were united in marriage at Beaver City, Nebraska, and started housekeeping on a farm of I. S. Meyers west of Hendley, which is now occupied by the Arvid Bell family. Inis M. Jennings was born on this place. Later Mr. and Mrs. Jennings purchased a Beaver Valley farm one mile south and one and one-half miles east of Hendley and here their daughter, Julia, was born in a part dugout and part sod house. Dr. George P. Shoemaker was the attending physician. Mrs. Jennings being very ill for many months, the care of the children fell to the father, along with all his outside duties as a farmer. They later built a two room sod house and here E. Hazel, Ora Orville and Lawrence V. Jennings were born. This was their home for several years, then they built a large two story house and this place is now occupied by their grandson, E. M. Longsine and family.

Mr. Jennings was a prominent grain and livestock raiser. He took pride on being the first one in the community to have roasting ears on the market. He had a very early variety of corn for eating purposes. His policy was to owe no man anything and he was known for his honesty in all his business dealings. He was a man of his word and always strived to do what he promised.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings and Lawrence moved from the farm near Hendley in 1924 to a place one mile south of Beaver City, Nebraska, which he purchased from Hans Larsen and here their granddaughter, Murriel Jennings Longsine, made her home with them for some time.

While living near Hendley the 4th of July celebration was the high light of the year, and another highlight for Mr. Jennings came when a distant relative of his, William Jennings Bryan, came to Beaver City to give a political address. The Jennings family and a neighboring family made the trip to town to hear him by a lumber wagon, that being the mode of travel in those days by a group too large for a buggy. There were no cars in those days. Long distance traveling being done by train. Mr. Jennings began doing a man's work at 10 years of age, his father having passed away when he was a small boy, and he continued a life of work until he passed away in July 1930.

Sarah's obituary adds a few details about her life, so I will include it, also:

Sarah Adaline Wilbourn, daughter of Shadrich and Adelia Wilbourn was born in Sacramento, California May 6, 1862 and died at her home near Beaver City, August 21, 1939, aged 77 years, three months and 14 days.

When a young girl she moved with her parents to Illinois. Later, they moved to Butler county, Nebraska and then to Furnas county, where she resided in Wilsonville, also near Hendley and then moved near Beaver City, where she spent the last fifteen years.

She was married to Oron E. Jennings, November 30, 1892. To this union were born five children.

She leaves to mourn her passing three daughters: Inis of Alliance, Mrs. Julia Longsine of Hendley and Mrs. Hazel Smith of Beaver City; two granddaughters, Murriel Jennings and Sarah Irene Smith; one grandson, Marion Longsine; two sisters, Mrs. Mary Ditsch of Littletown, Colorado, and Miss Angie Wilbourn of Hendley, besides many other relatives and friends. She united with the Church of Christ in Hendley many years ago, later transferring her membership to the Beaver City church of the same faith.

She was a loving wife and mother, a true friend and neighbor, and will be greatly missed by those who knew her. Her untiring effort and patience in caring for her children, especially Lawrence, who was ill for so long, will never be forgotten. Her one big wish was

to be spared that she might care for Lawrence as long as he lived. Besides caring for her own family, she also cared for her granddaughter, Murriel Jennings for several years.

She was ever patient and thoughtful of others and never complained. She was so easy to care for in her last illness and was worried for fear those caring for her would not get their rest.

Her home was always open to her friends, and she did so appreciate the calls and many acts of kindness from her neighbors and friends.

A dear mother and sister is gone. A place is left vacant that can never be filled.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the Christian church, conducted by Rev. Stephen J. Epler of Norton. Mrs. Pearl Combs and Mrs. E. T. Carter sang, "Under His Wings", "The City Four Square", and "Does Jesus Care?" accompanied by Mrs. Kenneth Beckman. Pallbearers were George Robinson, Elmer Fletcher, Jay Strickland, Chas. Kinsman, Hans Larsen and Albert Rennecher. Burial was in the Hendley cemetery.

Sources: - Census - 1860 - Sacramento Co., California
1880 - Harlan County, Nebraska
Hendley Centennial booklet
Family information

III. Sarah Adaline Wilbourn - bn. 6 May 1860 California d. 21 August 1939
m. 30 November 1892, Furnas Co. Nebraska, Orion Elbert Jennings
bn. 13 December 1861 d. 7 July 1930. Both buried Hendley, Nebraska

IV. Iris Murriel Jennings - bn. 8 October 1893 Hendley, Nebraska
d. 26 September 1967, Henderson, Nevada bur. Hendley, Nebraska

IV. Julia May Jennings - bn. 27 June 1895, Hendley, Nebraska
d. 17 May 1978 m. #1 May 1917 Edward Marion Jennings bn. 12 Febr
1880 d. 28 February 1921 m. #2 3 July 1924 Edward Earl Longsine
bn. 15 February 1893, Harlan Co., Nebraska d. 3 December 1960

V. Edith MURRIEL Jennings - bn. 24 February 1920
d. 9 July 1979, bur. Hendley, Nebraska m.5 February 1946
Delbert Earl Longsine bn. 15 February 1914
d. 19 August 1979

VI. Donnell Paul Longsine (adopted) bn. 20 September
1952 Salt Lake City m. Geraldine Dawson

VII. Angela Longsine

VII. Brandy Longsine

V. Edward Marion Longsine - bn. 28 March 1925 m. #1 10 March
1945 Rosetta Ann Dawson m. #2. 22 December 1950 Audrey Marie
Bell bn. 10 December 1929, Burr Oak, Kansas

VI. Carol Janette Longsine - bn. 20 June 1946
Orleans, Nebraska m. 30 June 1968 Eugene Sibley

VI. Lonnie Jean Longsine - bn. 23 May 1948 Salem, Oregon
m. 11 January 1969 Marguerite Hale

VI. Rory Dianna Longsine - bn. 19 September 1951
Orleans, Nebraska m. 23 April 1984 Randall Patrick Long

VI. Vicki Belle Longsine - bn. 24 May 1953

VI - Gregg Arlan Longsine - bn. 23 August 1956

VI - Marc Ramon Longsine - bn. 22 September 1959

VI - Brett Alan Longsine - bn. 6 May 1961

VI - Julie Lynne Longsine - bn. 29 December 1965
m. 31 December 1986 Daniel Joseph Christian

IV. Edith HAZEL Jennings - bn. 15 January 1898 d. 18 November 1969 bur. Hendley, Nebraska. m. 18 June 1924 Harvey J. Smith bn. 19 March 1893 d. 10 September 1983

V. Robert Jennings Smith - bn. 6 November 1926
d. 9 November 1926

V. Sarah Irene Smith - bn. 18 September 1928 m. 18 June 1947 Delton Ray Coe bn. 16 May 1922 Harlan County, Nebraska d. 29 December 1986 buried Alma, Nebraska

VI. David DeWayne Coe - bn. 13 December 1948
m 28 December 1970 Marlene Sue Higbee bn. 18 July 1949

VII. Laci Jean Marlene Coe - bn. 22 August 1971

VII. Jaci Anne Dalene Coe - bn. 16 January 1976

VI. Richard Keith Allen Coe - bn. 3 February 1950
m. 15 November 1980 Kristen Kay Heft bn. 3 May 1960

VII. Andrea Richael Coe - bn. 3 December 1973

VI. Franklin NORMAN Lee Coe - bn. 25 April 1951
m. 27 November 1974 Pamela Kay Denson bn. 5 April 1954

VII. Scott Eric Coe - bn. 5 August 1970

VII. Ryan Lee Coe - bn. 4 January 1977

VII. Jeffrey Allen Coe - bn. 9 April 1980

VII. Jennifer Marie Coe - bn. 22 March 1981
d. 22 March 1981 buried Overton, Nebraska

VII. Michael David Coe - bn. 6 October 1982

V. Harvey LeOron Smith - bn. 6 December 1931 d. 8 April 1936

IV. Ora Orville Jennings - bn. 7 February 1900 d. 24 July 1901

IV. Lawrence Victor Jennings - bn. 26 March 1903 d. 10 March 1939

LOUIS LINCOLN WILBURN

Louis Lincoln Wilburn was also born in California, moved to Illinois, and then to Butler County, Nebraska. Again, at the risk of seeming morbid, I have depended on an obituary to provide most of the details of his life. I do have a few additional facts which my Dad told me concerning the family. When the children were still fairly young, Louis and his wife Nettie divorced. Louis kept the children with him, raising them himself. During part of the time his sister Almeda and her husband, James Bell, came to help him. Later, two of Louis' daughters, Emma Pearl and Hazel W. married two brothers, Harvey and Loy I. Magers. In 1927 Hazel died, leaving a son, Dick Wilburn Magers, who was only two months old. Emma and Harvey Magers took the baby and cared for him. My records show Emma died only eight years later. There was a lot of sadness in the family. I know of no other children in the family. Jessie Wilburn, the eldest, never married. Louis S. Wilburn and his wife Lucille had no children. Thus Dick is, to my knowledge, the only grandchild of Louis Lincoln Wilburn.
Louis' obituary follows:

Louis Lincoln Wilburn was born at Sacramento, California March 7, 1864 and departed this life at his home in Wilsonville, Nebraska March 6, 1930. His journey on earth lacked one day of being 66 years.

At the age of five years he, with his parents moved to Springfield, Illinois moving from there to Butler county, Nebraska. At the age of 15 the family moved to Oxford, Nebraska. When only eighteen years of age he and his brother T. A. Wilburn, each with a crew of eighty men, surfaced and laid the track for the Burlington railroad from Orleans to Atwood. He then came to Wilsonville where he had charge of the first section here. In 1895 he moved to Barr, Colorado where he had charge of a section. In 1901 he moved to his farm near Wilsonville, where he has since resided.

On August 2, 1890 he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Valley lodge No. 157, of Wilsonville. He was a kind father, a good neighbor and was highly respected in the community in which he lived. In entering upon a higher and better life, he leaves a record unsullied. His memory will be cherished by all who knew him. His integrity to every earthly bond was never unchallenged.

He leaves to mourn his going, two daughters, Miss Jessie Wilburn and Mrs. Emma Magers; one son, Louis S. Wilburn and one grandson, Dick Wilburn Magers, all of Wilsonville. His youngest daughter, Mrs. Hazel Magers, preceded him in death April 29, 1927. One brother, Henry, of Waco, Nebraska; four sisters, Mrs. Mary Wadsworth, of Healdsburg, California; Mrs. Sarah Jennings, of Beaver City, Nebraska; Mrs. Mae Ditsch, of Denver and Miss Angie Wilburn, of Omaha, besides a host of other relatives and friends also mourn his passing.

Two brothers, T. A. and Shadrich Wilburn and one sister, Mrs. Almeda Bell have preceded him.

Funeral services were held at the Methodist church Saturday afternoon, conducted by Rev. L. R. Hansberry, of Guide Rock, Nebraska, former pastor of the deceased. Deputy Grand Custodian Gourley, of Orleans, had charge of the Masonic services at the cemetery. Interment was in the Wilsonville cemetery.

Sources: 1880 Census - Harlan County, Nebraska
Newspaper obituary
Family information

LOUIS LINCOLN WILBURN FAMILY

III. Louis Lincoln Wilburn - bn. 7 March 1864, California
d. 6 March 1930 bur. Wilsonville, Nebraska. m. 14 September 1892
Nettie Hanning. Div.

IV. Jessie Wilburn - bn. 3 April 1894 Wilsonville, Nebraska
d. 25 July 1985

IV. Louis S. Wilburn - bn. 29 October 1896 Barr, Colorado
d. 29 November 1951 m. 28 April 1921 Lucille Hyke
bn. 28 November 1898 Blue Hill, Nebraska d. 10 December 1959
both bur. Wilsonville, Nebraska

IV. Emma Pearl Wilburn - bn. 2 November 1898 d. 14 June 1935
Wilsonville, Nebraska m. 29 June 1916 Harvey Magers

IV. Hazel W. Wilburn - bn. 29 November 1900 Barr, Colorado
d. 29 April 1927 Cambridge, Nebraska m. 17 February 1925
Loy I. Magers (brother of Harvey, above)

V. Richard Magers - (raised by Emma and Harvey Magers after
Hazel's death in 1927) b. February 1927

The Hendley Centennial book, published in 1973 as mentioned in Sarah's biography, also contained a biography of the Thomas Wilburn family written by my Dad, Ardrea L. Wilburn. It follows:

I am Ardrea L. Wilburn and am writing about the origin and early day experiences of my parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Meyers Wilburn. My father was not a homesteader. His first appearance in the Hendley community was when the railroad was built up the Beaver valley, in 1886 and 1887. He was foreman on one of the extra gangs laying the steel. The railroad passed through some of the land owned by one of the pioneers, Isaac S. Meyers. At that time Dad met and later married Elizabeth R. Meyers, a daughter of Mr. Meyers.

Mother was born in 1875 in the sod house of her parent's homestead and, of course, shared in all the pleasures and disappointments of early pioneer life. As a small girl she herded sheep on the very farm which later became her home in married life.

Dad worked for the Burlington Railroad for 35 years, serving in various positions and living at several different points; Holyoke, Colorado; Red Cloud, Nebraska; Lincoln and McCook. While living at Red Cloud we were next door neighbors to the Willa Cather family. We kids played together in the street between the two houses. Finally, while serving as Trainmaster at McCook, Dad became enthused about the farm and thought it a better place to raise his family. So, in the fall of 1906 he purchased a farm just south of one owned by his brother, Lou Wilburn, three miles east and one north of Wilsonville. Later, in the spring of 1908 he sold this farm to his brother and purchased a new home two miles west of Hendley on highway 89, which was our home for forty years. By that time my wife and I had purchased the farm and we sold it in 1948 to the present owner, Harold Hanneman and wife.

There were four children in our home, Floyd, John, myself and Elsie. Floyd died in 1913, age 21. John worked all the years of his employment for the General Electric Co. as an Electrical Engineer. He and his wife are retired now and live in Akron, Ohio. They had no children. I married Mildred Hardin of Beaver City 52 years ago. We are retired and live in Beaver City. We have two children, Floyd and Marjorie, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Elsie married Frank Della, an accountant, and they have lived in Omaha all their married life. Frank is gone now and Elsie has retired after teaching over 50 years in the Omaha schools. They have one daughter and three granddaughters.

Dad's first experience as a farmer was far from rosy. From 1907 to 1913 we never husked one ear of corn. Some years it got knee high and some years shoulder high, but something always happened to ruin the crop. One year it was all tasseled out when along came three days of terrifically hot wind and the tassels just laid over and died. Later the silks came out for the ear, but with no pollen to germinate them, so no corn again. Along with the dry years we had the dust storms, the floods, the grasshoppers and the hog cholera.

But we did have a good life, were never hungry, and all the family were together. Among the pleasant memories were when all the neighbors helped each other to haul the wheat from the shock to the threshing machine. The women folk had quite a crew to cook for on those days. Then there were the annual butchering days at each home when from five to ten hogs would be butchered, the sausage and puddin-meat ground and the lard rendered.

Dad belonged to the Masonic Lodge for many years and also belonged to the Shrine. He loved to go to the local baseball games, especially when I played. At that time Hendley had a real good baseball team, mostly salaried, and Dad never missed many games.

He passed away of a stroke in 1924, at a rather early age of 58. After Dad was gone Mother and Aunt Angie lived together in Hendley for several years and later moved to Beaver City to be near us. Mother loved her church, Methodist, and was always busy helping where she could. She especially liked to sew, quilt, hook rugs, and make fancy work galore. Aunt Angie passed away in 1957 and Mother in 1959.

A brief update on the family since 1973 mostly centers around retirements and more great-grandchildren. Concerning the family of Ardrea and Mildred Wilburn, Floyd (better known as Skelly) and his wife Maxine have retired to Leisure World in Mesa, Arizona. They have four grandchildren. Son Bob and wife Donnie have Helene and Patrick and live in Seattle, Washington. Daughter Becky and her husband Mike Williams are the parents of John and Jodi in Holdrege, Nebraska.

My husband, Jim Jensen, has also retired from his job as engineer with John Deere. He has since then taught engineering courses at Iowa State University, and does some consulting work. We have remained in Ankeny, Iowa. We have seven grandchildren; Ron and Judy's two boys, Sam and David in Minneapolis; Connie and Bill Funk's Natalie and Daniel in Ankeny; Karla and Virgil Gulley's sons Drew and James in Wisconsin; and Anne and Brad Williams' son Matthew in Overland Park, Kansas.

My Uncle John, Dad's older brother, died in Ohio in 1980 and their sister Elsie Wilburn Della died in Omaha in 1981. John married late in life and had no children. Joyce Della Crouch, daughter of Elsie and Frank Della, now has grandchildren, also. Joyce and Dewey Crouch's daughter Carolee Hoth, has a daughter Lauren. Carolee, her husband Dennis, and Lauren live in Omaha. The Crouch's 2nd daughter, Kim, also lives in Omaha. Another daughter,

Shari Lee Crouch Pflaster, her husband Daniel, and new daughter, Erin Leigh are in Germany.

My dad and mother were very active into their later years, maintaining their home in Beaver City and enjoying golf, their friends, and family until 1987. Dad died in September of 1987 after they had celebrated 66 years of marriage. Mother survives him, now in a nursing home in Beaver City.

I cherish memories of good times on that Nebraska farm. I hope children still have times alone, when they can swing, make mud pies, or sit in the barn with a lap full of baby kittens. I wonder if my cousin, Joyce Crouch, remembers being helped out of the haymow where we had gone looking for kittens. Getting up the ladder was one thing. Getting down was scary. Dad came to the rescue and carried her on his shoulders. Joyce was my "city cousin" and not used to haymows. When I would visit her, I, as the "country cousin", would have new experiences too, like a street car ride downtown or lunch at Brandeis.

In southwest Nebraska there was always plenty of wind for flying kites. That same wind provided the source of power for a windcharger, which brought electricity to our house some time before Rural Electrification came through that area. Only those who read by a kerosene lamp could know the thrill of electric lights, and vacuum cleaners, and irons, and refrigerators. No more puddles under the ice refrigerator! For that matter, only those who experienced a cold path to a colder outhouse could really savor indoor plumbing. That remodeling job was my all-time favorite.

I can remember riding with Grandma to Wilsonville when she had some errands to do. We would ride along in her shiny, black 1928 Chevrolet which wasn't new, but was always sparkling clean. She'd sing hymns as she drove, and I enjoyed the countryside, and her company.

Last of all would any other little farm girl believe her big brother could lay eggs? It didn't sound too logical but his cuck-cuck-a-duck was so convincing - - and there was the egg to prove it! The hand is quicker than the eye.

All in all, a Nebraska farm was not a bad place to spend a childhood. Thanks for the memories.

Sources: Family information
1860 Census - Sacramento County, California
1900 Census - Red Cloud, Nebraska

III. THOMAS ALBERTAS WILBURN, bn. 8 February 1866 Sacramento, California d. 2 December 1924, Hendley, Nebraska. m. 20 June 1891 Elizabeth Regina Meyers, bn. 18 February 1875, Hendley, Nebraska. d. 27 September 1959 buried Hendley, Nebraska.

IV. Floyd LeRoy Wilburn - bn. 31 January 1892 d. 24 May 1913

IV. John Wilburn - bn. 27 October 1893 d. 22 April 1980
m. #1 1935 Nelle Kilroy d. - m. #2 1949 Elizabeth Bryan

IV. Ardrea Lyle Wilburn - bn. 4 March 1896 Holyoke, Colorado d. 21 September 1987 Beaver City, Nebraska m. 31 August 1921 Mildred M. Hardin bn. 25 March 1900

V. Floyd Ellsworth (Skelly) Wilburn - bn. 8 June 1922 Wilsonville, Nebraska m. 22 June 1941 E. Maxine Carr bn. 20 June 1920 Beaver City, Nebraska

VI. Robert Lyle Wilburn - bn. 20 April 1944
m. 4 June 1967 Donnelly Jones bn. 3 October 1945
Des Moines, Iowa

VII. Helene Ann Wilburn - bn. 30 March 1971
Seattle, Washington

VII. Patrick Brian Wilburn - bn. 18 August 1974
Torrance, California

VI. Rebecca Joan Wilburn - bn. 29 November 1947
Beaver City, Nebraska m. 16 August 1969 Mike Williams
bn. 5 January 1947 Denver, Colorado

VII. John Patrick Williams - bn. 3 June 1970
Holdrege, Nebraska

VII. Jodi Jolene Williams - bn. 15 July 1977
Holdrege, Nebraska

V. Marjorie Ann Wilburn - bn. 14 May 1928 Wilsonville, Nebraska m. 25 June 1950 Hendley, Nebraska James K. Jensen bn. 8 Sept. 1923 Plainview, Nebraska

VI. Ronald James Jensen - bn. 14 July 1952 Cedar Falls, Iowa m. 10 August 1980 Berkeley, California Judy Ann Ostendorff bn. 16 September 1946 Seattle, Washington

VII. Samuel Alan Jensen - bn. 23 April 1983 Bloomington, Minnesota

VII. David Warren Jensen - bn. 14 November 1985 Bloomington, Minnesota

VI. Constance Jo Jensen - bn. 12 February 1955 Cedar Falls, Ia. m. 24 June 1978, Ankeny, Iowa William Harold Funk bn. 22 February 1954 Des Moines, Iowa

VII. Natalie Jo Funk - bn. 24 July 1984 Ankeny, Iowa

VII. Daniel William Funk - bn. 20 February 1989 Ankeny, Iowa

VI. Karla Jean Jensen - bn. 11 June 1957 Cedar Falls, Iowa m. 27 June 1981 Ft. Madison, Iowa Virgil Terry Gulley bn. 8 March 1961 Richmond, Missouri

VII. Drew Michael Gulley - bn. 15 April 1983 Ft. Madison, Iowa

VII. James Clayton Gulley - bn. 16 February 1988 Cedar Falls, Iowa

VI. Anne Kristin Jensen - bn. 8 September 1960 Cedar Falls, Iowa m.6 July 1985 Ankeny, Iowa Bradley James Williams bn. 5 September 1960 Muscatine, Iowa

VII. Matthew Bradley Williams - bn. 18 April 1989 Overland Park, Kansas

IV. Elsie Charlotte Wilburn - bn. 14 February 1898 Red Cloud, Nebraska
d. 26 November 1981 Omaha, Nebraska m. 25 December 1921
Frank E. Della bn. 2 December 1897 Vienna, Austria
d. 4 August 1971 Omaha, Nebraska

V. Francis Wilburn Della - bn. 9 January 1931 Omaha, Nebraska
d. 7 July 1931 buried Hendley, Nebraska

V. Joyce Elizabeth Della - bn. 12 May 1933 Omaha, Nebraska
m. 26 June 1954 Dewey Eugene Crouch bn. 26 October 1929
Butler County, Pennsylvania

VI. Carolee Crouch - bn. 29 September 1958 Omaha, Nebraska
m. 7 June 1980 Dennis Jon Hoth bn. 17 March 1957

VII. Lauren Hoth bn. 24 July 1988 Omaha, Nebraska

VI. Kimberly Jean Crouch - bn. 26 December 1964 Omaha,
Nebraska m. 1 June 1985 Springfield, Missouri Carl Joseph
Newton. Div.

VI. Shari Lee Crouch - bn. 25 May 1966 Omaha, Nebraska
m. 28 December 1986 Daniel John Pflaster bn. 4 February
1964

VII. Erin Leigh Pflaster bn. 21 April 1990 Germany

SHADRICH M. WILBURN, JR.

It's back to an obituary to relate the life of Shadrich M. Wilburn, Jr. I do know, from family conversations, that he was referred to as Shade, never Shadrich. He and Aunt Angie were the two members of the family who never married. Both of them died at the home of my Grandfather and Grandmother, as did Great-Grandfather Shadrich. My Grandmother, Elizabeth Wilburn, must have been a good nurse. I do know Grandmother was a very compassionate person and seemed to be the care-taker of the family.

Shadrich's position as "bachelor brother" of the family evidently gave him a certain sense of responsibility for his unmarried sister, Angie. In view of that fact, he made special provisions for her in his will, leaving her 3/4 of all his money accounts, including bank deposits, bank drafts, notes on individual parties, liberty bonds and cash on hand, also house and lot in Moorcroft, Wyoming. In addition he specified she should receive his personal effects, with the exception of a gold ring which was to go to brother Henry.

His obituary follows:

Shadrach Wilburn was born in Springfield, Illinois, January 27, 1869 and passed away July 7, 1921, at the home of his brother, T. A. Wilburn at Hendley, Nebraska, aged 52 years, 5 months and 10 days.

In early youth he came with his parents to eastern Nebraska, afterwards moving to Wilsonville. He entered the railroad service at the age of 15 years, remaining in the service until two years prior to his death, when his health began to fail.

He was a member of the Masonic lodges at Wilsonville and Oxford.

Besides a host of friends, he leaves to mourn his loss, four sisters and three brothers: Mrs. Mary Wadsworth, Healdsburg, California; W. H. Wilburn, Aurora, Nebraska; Mrs. Sarah Jennings, Hendley, Nebraska; L. L. Wilburn, Wilsonville, T. A. Wilburn, Hendley; Mrs. May Ditsch, Denver, and Miss Angie Wilburn, Hendley.

His father, mother, and one sister, Mrs. Almeda Bell have preceded him to the Great Beyond.

He was a kind loving brother and a man highly respected by all who knew him.

His attitude in his last illness was very aptly expressed by the poet in his immortal lines, "Sunset and evening star and one clear star for me. Oh may there be no moaning at the bar when I put out to sea."

Funeral services were held at the Hendley Methodist church, Sunday, July 10, at 2:30 p.m.

The remains were laid to rest in the Hendley cemetery.

CYNTHIA MAY DITSCH WILBURN

As I remember visits to the home of Aunt Sarah Jennings, I also remember visits to the home of Aunt May Wilburn Ditsch. The visits to her home were not as frequent, but were eagerly anticipated. She lived near Denver, Colorado, and a trip to Colorado was a long trip in those days, even for someone living in southwest Nebraska. Our visits were usually brief, because farmers could not arrange to be gone long from the "chores", which meant the twice-daily feeding of animals, milking the cows, gathering the eggs, etc. Each trip to Aunt May's house meant a lovely drive up into the mountains. I still remember being surprised that those mountains, which looked within walking distance, were an hour's drive away.

Her obituary was headed LONG TIME RESIDENT, CYNTHIA MAY DITSCH, DIES EARLY SUNDAY. The text is as follows:

Mrs. Cynthia May Ditsch of 3898 S. Delaware, well-known local resident for over fifty years, died at her home early Sunday morning after a long illness. She was 82.

Mrs. Ditsch was born in Ulysses, Nebraska May 29, 1872 and lived in that state until she came to Colorado in 1901. She resided in the same home in Sheridan from the time she first moved to the state until 1948. She married Christoph Ditsch in Denver in 1897. Mr. Ditsch died in 1929.

Mrs. Ditsch was a charter member of Manzanita chapter 85, O. E. S. of Littleton, and was a member of the Jane Jefferson club. She was always interested in politics and was a committeewoman for the Democratic party from 1913 until 1948 when she became ill. She was very devoted to her family and enjoyed people, maintaining an active interest in all that was going on until she became bedridden last September. She had lived with her daughter, Mrs. Lorraine Kidd, and a son, Leslie C. Ditsch for many years. Besides her own family of five children, she raised a grandson, Aubrey E. Ditsch Jr., from the time of his mother's death when he was two years old until he was killed in an accident when he was 18.

Services for Mrs. Ditsch were conducted by the Rev. Russell Chandler in Olinger's Englewood mortuary at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, under the auspices of the O. E. S. Burial was in the Littleton cemetery.

Survivors besides the son and daughter previously mentioned are three other sons, Aubrey E. of Denver; Cecil R. of Littleton; and Eugene of Gardena, California; a sister, Miss Angie Wilburn of Beaver City, Nebraska; and ten grandchildren.

Her son, Eugene, came from California for her services, as did her sister, Miss Angie Wilburn, and sister-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth Wilburn of Beaver City, Nebraska.

III. CYNTHIA MAY WILBURN - bn. 29 May 1872 Ulysses, Nebraska d. 13 June 1954 Littleton, Colorado, m. 23 June 1897 Christoph Ditsch bn. 24 August 1864 d. 28 March 1929

IV. Aubrey Everett Ditsch - bn. 29 March 1898 Roggin, Colorado d. 20 March 1956 Pueblo, Colorado

V. Aubrey E. Jr.

IV. Leslie C. Ditsch - bn. 7 September 1900 d. 30 January 1964

IV. Cecil Ditsch - bn. 29 September 1903 d. 4 October 1967

IV. Eugene Ditsch

IV. Lourain Ditsch - bn. 3 March 1909 m. Mack Kidd bn. 1 February 1900 d. 29 April 1968

V. Judith Kidd

ANGELINE EMMALINE WILBURN

Aunt Angie Wilburn was sort of a third Grandmother in our family. She had come to live with my Grandparents when my Dad was born in 1896. She supposedly came to help take care of "the new baby, Ardrea". Two years later, another "new baby, Elsie" arrived. I'm sure my Grandmother could have used some help. When Elsie was born, Grandma lacked four days of being 23 years old. She had four children. Floyd, the eldest, had just become six years old. Elizabeth's elderly father-in-law was living with them, and died two years later. Husband, Thomas, was gone a good share of the time, working with the Burlington railroad.

In spite of all this, I have the feeling my Grandmother had the situation well under control. Life in a pioneer family had given her responsibility at a very early age and she was by no means a helpless teen-age mother. While she would have welcomed Aunt Angie's help, Grandma was the head of her household and Aunt Angie more or less a permanent guest in that household.

Aunt Angie was very much a part of the family from 1896 until her death in 1957. She had taught one year of rural school after graduation from Wilsonville high school, and she spent a brief time working as a nurse's aide in Denver, but after her arrival in the Tom Wilburn household, her life was pretty much centered around the family. She attended the Methodist Church regularly and she belonged to Eastern Star. She was intensely loyal to "her family" - her nieces and nephews and their families. She was a part of the church quilting group and sometimes taught a Sunday School class.

After Thomas' death Grandma and Aunt Angie moved into Hendley and lived in the house next door to the Methodist church. Our family moved to the farm where Grandma, Grandpa, and Aunt Angie had lived. I remember sometimes Mother and I would spend the day at Grandma and Aunt Angie's house working on a dress for me. Grandma and Mother cut and sewed and Aunt Angie fixed lunch and sometimes made cookies to offer to the neighbor children and me as we played. We all had a good time, and by the end of the day I had a new dress.

In 1950 I was married in the church next door to Grandma and Aunt Angie, and I remember we used Aunt Angie's bedroom as a dressing room. Soon after 1950, Grandma and Aunt Angie moved to Beaver City, where my parents lived by that time. The two houses were about three blocks apart, so we could visit Grandma and Aunt Angie often, when our family returned to Beaver City. Our older children can remember wagon rides down the sidewalk to see Grandma and Aunt Angie. At the end of their ride, they would probably be offered a cookie, as I had been given cookies a generation ago. And so the tradition continues, as I, in turn, offer cookies to my grandchildren when they come to visit.

Aunt Angie's obituary follows:

Funeral services for Miss Angie Wilburn were conducted last Thursday afternoon, April 11 from the Beaver City Methodist Episcopal church. Reverend Theo Krumrey officiated at the last rites.

Miss Angie Wilburn, daughter of Shadrich M. and Adelia Wilburn was born at Ulysses, Nebraska, March 26, 1875 and passed away at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. T. A. Wilburn, April 9, 1957, at the age of 82 years and 14 days. Her sickness was of short duration.

Miss Angie finished high school at Wilsonville and taught one term in a rural school south of Wilsonville. She worked as a nurse in Oaks Home at Denver, Colorado for a few years.

She has made her home for a good many years with her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Wilburn.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star lodge for a period of fifty-nine years, joining first at Red Cloud, Nebraska and later transferred her membership to Wilsonville.

She joined the Methodist church at Hendley in 1912 and has retained her membership there since.

Angie was the youngest of a family of nine children, all of whom have preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn her departure her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Wilburn, seventeen nieces and nephews and a host of friends and neighbors.

George Shafer, Jr., presided at the organ and Mrs. George Shafer sang "Have Thine Own Way" and "The Lord's Prayer". Pallbearers were Earl Hardin, Baxter James, John Hougnon, Gerald Collins, R. H. Carr and S. L. Meyers. Interment was made in Lynden cemetery west of Hendley.

Hopping-Haase Funeral Home of Beaver City was in charge of the arrangements.

WILL OF THOMAS WILBOURN

In the name of God Amen: I, Thomas Wilbourn of the County of Cumberland and state of Kentucky, being in a low state of health but of sound mind and memory and wishing to bequeath my worldly estate to my children, do ordain the following writing to be my last will and testament in manner and form following, to wit, 1st: It is my will and desire that after my death, so much of my personal estate shall be sold, so as to pay off all my just debts and such legacies as will be hereafter mentioned: I give and bequeath to my son Ralph seventy-five cents: & I give and bequeath to my sons, Robert, John, Edward and Thomas and to my daughter Polly the like sum of seventy five cents, to each. I give and bequeath to my son William all that tract of land I now live on containing, by estimation, one hundred and fifty acres together with all my stock of cattle, horses and hogs, which I may be possessed of, and on the plantation whenever I shall die and likewise all my household and kitchen furniture, and in case I shall die before the crop should be finished it is my will and desire that my son Thomas should have all that part of my crop which is now growing on the north side of the River Cumberland and that my son William should have all that part which is on the south side and I do hereby enjoin my son William to maintain his mother as long as she lives; lastly I do hereby appoint my sons Edward, Thomas and William to be my executors to this my last will and testament revoking all other wills I may have heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of August 1815. *Thomas Wilbourn*

(Signed also by witnesses - John W. Semple and John Anderson)

The will Of Thomas Wilbourn was located in the records of the County Clerk of Cumberland County, Burkesville, Kentucky. The assessment of property, made after the death of Thomas Wilbourn, was also in their records and is given on the following page.

Amount of the Estate of Thomas Wilbourn, deceased, appraised by an order of C. County, corte (sic) to wit:

Stoche of hogs	$ 72.50.0
Stoche of cattle	38.00.0
Stoche of horses	120.00.0
Household and kitchen furniture	82.00.0
Farming tools	26.00.0
One hundred barrels corn	125.00.0
	$463.50.0

Given under my hand and seal this 6th day of April 1816.
Thos. Spearman
John Anderson
Arch.B.Rowland

Personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the Commonwealth Justices of the Peace in and for Cumberland County the above named Thos. Spearman, John Anderson, A.R.B. Rowland and made oath that the foregoing is a correct statement of the property of the deceased and was truly appraised by them. Given under my hand this 8th day of April 1816.

Robt. Galbraith J. Pce.

Cumberland County

I certify that the within inventory of appraisement of the estate of Thomas Wilbourn, deceased, is as produced in the court for the county aforesaid at their April term 1816. Examined, approved of and ordered to be recorded and that I have recorded the same together with this and the magistrate's certificate therein. Endorsed in my said office in will book B, page 16, witness my hand as Clerk of court this 17 day of April 1816.
John E. King

WILL AND PROPERTY APPRAISAL OF THOMAS WILBOURN, JR.

The nuncupative will of Thomas Wilbourn made at the house of William Wilbourn in his last sickness and attested by John Anderson and Susannah Wilbourn who were called upon at said place on the seventh day of February 1817 to bear witness that the following was said Thomas Wilbourn's nuncupative will viz: 1st - It is my express wish and desire that not one of my half brothers or half sisters shall have one cent of my estate. That all my just debts shall be paid; and if in the division between my two brothers Edward and William Wilbourn, if they make it not convenient for Bob to stay here with William he must go to Edward. That my trunk with two breast keys therein, shall belong to Tempest (?) Betsey Wilbourn and that two heifer cattle of mine shall belong to my nephew Lewis Wilbourn, and John Anderson's little MaryAnne; one to each as they may divide them - and Timmerman (Simmerman?) owes me a hat to be worth between five and six dollars which must belong to my nephew Lewis Wilbourn, and it is my request that he shall wear it for my sake. The above was spoken in the hearing of the undersigned, who were requested by said Thomas Wilbourn at the time & place aforesaid, to bear testimony that the foregoing was his will and testament. Signed by them this 14th day of April 1817.

Cumberland County Court - April Term 1817

I certify that the within nuncupative will of Thomas Wilbourn deceased was at the (?) aforesaid exhibited in the court aforesaid and proved by the (?) of John Anderson and Susannah, two of the witnesses produced and ordered to record: - and I have recorded the same together with this certificate in my office in will book B, page 57. Given under my hand this 17th day of May 1817.
Milton King

We the undersigned being appointed to appraise the personal estate of Thomas Wilbourn deceased being duly sworn, appraise the property to us shewn (sic) by Edward Wilbourn admn. of said estate as follows, viz.

One gray horse	$100.00.0
One bay horse	85.00.0
One negro man named Bob	700.00.0
One bridle	7.00.0
One saddle	5.00.0
	$897.00.0

Given under our hands this 11th day of May 1818
Thomas M. Emerson
J. M. Emerson

Land records of the early Kentucky Wilbourns were also located in Burkesville, Kentucky. This first example is a resume of the transactions concerning Thomas Wilbourn's farm along the Cumberland River.

In 1800 Lewis & John Potter sold 200 acres of land to Thomas Wilburn & Robert Champ (head right land); Thomas Wilborn willed his 100 acres to his son William Wilborn; Champ sold his 100 acres to William Miller who sold to Ezekiel Williams who sold to Jonas Crener who sold to Edward Wilborn; Edward & Thomas Wilborn orally contracted to sell to William Smith; F-1 4/10/1827
(Note: variations of spelling are as contained in original documents)

The following recording of the sale of Robert Wilburn's land, also along the Cumberland River, is especially interesting for the description of the land boundaries - also note the price of the purchase is in the old English currency.

This indenture made and entered into this 18th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & nineteen between Robert Wilburn of Cumberland County and state of Kentucky of the one part and James Radford of the same place of the other part, witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred pounds current money to the said Robert Wilburn in hand paid before the sealing & delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge, hath granted, sold, asigned and conveyed to the said James Radford a certain tract or parcel of land containing one hundred acres be the same more or less, lying & being in the county aforesaid, and being a (?) of a patent of two hundred acres of land granted to Lewis Potter & lying on the south side of Cumberland river and bounded as follows: beginning at the mouth of Potter creek then down Cumberland river binding thereon to three beeches a corner to a survey of 12 acres and 48 poles, thence with a line of the same to William Spearman's line a white sak (sic) and two beeches, thence with said Spearman's line a few poles to his corner, thence with a line of John Mitchel's survey to the beginning. The said one hundred acres being a part of the said two hundred acres by patent granted to Lewis Potter, and which was purchased by Thomas Wilburn Sen. deceased of John Mitchel to have & to hold the said one hundred acres of land with all and singular the improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging to the said James Radford and his heirs forever, and the said Robert Wilburn doth warrant and defend the said one hundred acres of land with all and singular the improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging from and against the lawful claim and demand of all and every person or persons whatsoever. In testimony whereof the said Robert Wilburn hath hereunto set his hand and seal this 18th day of September 1819.
Robert Wilburn (his x mark)

PROBATE PAPERS - ROBERT S. WILBOURN

The most exciting discovery of my Wilburn research was that of the probate papers of Robert S. Wilbourn. Persistence pays. I had written to the office of the Circuit Court, in Springfield, Illinois, asking for information and was sent this copy of the notice which had appeared in the paper in 1867 after the death of Robert S. Wilburn. There was also a note saying, "I hope this will be of some assistance to you. There are other papers in the file but I didn't know if you would be interested in them. All they are, are receipts but if you want them let me know." I was pleased to receive anything at all, and it was some time later that I was able to make a personal visit to Springfield, Illinois, and see what else was contained in the file. Much to my surprise, there was a rather large bundle of papers, tied with a string and placed in the basement of the Sangamon County Building where they had probably not been disturbed for more than 100 years, except to be moved from the original building to the present one. Here were some personal letters, court orders, etc., and a complete list of the heirs of Robert S. Wilbourn. A genealogist's dream come true. I enclose a sampling of these papers, complete with the angry letter of Zachariah and hope the dissension which was obvious at that time has had time to cool off during the intervening years. By the way, I'm not sure how it all came out.

State of Illinois, Sangamon County, } ss.
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD.

I, the undersigned, Publisher of the "ILLINOIS STATE JOURNAL," a public newspaper, printed in the City, County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that a Notice, of which the annexed is a true copy, has been regularly published in said paper Four weeks in succession, commencing on the 28th day of August 1867 and ending on the 18th day of September 1867

Given under my hand, at the City of Springfield, aforesaid, this 21st day of October 1867

PRINTER'S FEES, $ 5.00

Journal Co
J. D. Roperton

This affidavit of decease and names of heirs gave me the information upon which I was able to base most of the rest of my research. In case the writing is hard to decipher, heirs are: Rachael Wilbourn, his widow, and John Wilbourn, Robert Wilbourn, "Zariah" Wilbourn, Shade Wilbourn, Jackson Wilbourn, Nancy Farmer, Sallie Miller, Elizabeth Duff, Polly Willcox, Saphronia Hardin, - John Wilbourn, son of Thomas Wilbourn, dec'd.

AFFIDAVIT OF DECEASE AND NAMES OF HEIRS. GEO. R. WEBER, Job Printer.

State of Illinois,
Sangamon County.

Rachael Wilbourn being duly sworn deposes and says that Robert L Wilbourn late of the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois, is dead, and that he died on or about the 7th day of July A. D. 1867, Intestate as he is said

and that his ~~Personal~~ Estate will probably amount to the sum of $12,000; that said Robert L Wilbourn left at the time of his decease, Rachael Wilbourn his widow, and John Wilbourn Robert Wilbourn. Zariah Wilbourn. Shade Wilbourn Jackson Wilbourn. Nancy Farmer. Sallie Miller. Elizabeth Duff Polly Willcox Saphronia Hardin — John Wilbourn son of Thomas Wilbourn and his children & Heirs

Rachael her + mark Wilbourn

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 21 day of August A. D. 1867.

A W Mathews Clerk.

Attached to the bottom of this document is a certification of its authenticity. Since I do not have room on this sheet to include it in its entirety, it simply says: "I, N. W. Matheny, clerk of the County Court within and for the county aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the letters of administration granted to Rachael Wilbourn & James M. Morse as administrators of the estate of Robert S. Wilbourn deceased, as fully and completely as the same appears from the records in my office. Given under my hand and the seal of said court, at Springfield, this 21st day of August A. D. 1867. (signed) N. W. Matheny, clerk

State of Illinois, } ss.
SANGAMON COUNTY.

The People of the State of Illinois.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME—Greeting:

Know Ye, that whereas Robert S Wilbourn late of the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois, died intestate, as it is said, on or about the 7th day of July A. D. 1867, having, at the time of his decease, personal property in this State which may be lost, destroyed or diminished in value if speedy care be not taken of the same; to the end, therefore that said property may be collected and preserved for those who shall appear to have a legal right or interest therein, we do hereby appoint Rachael Wilbourn & James M Morse of the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois, administrators of all and singular, the GOODS AND CHATTELS, RIGHTS AND CREDITS which were of the said Robert S Wilbourn at the time of his ~~decease~~ decease, with full power and authority to secure and collect the said property and debts wheresoever the same may be found in the State; and in general to do and perform all other acts which now are or hereafter may be required of them by law.

Witness N. W. Matheny, Clerk of the County Court in and for the County of Sangamon, at his office in Springfield, this 21st day of August A. D. 1867

N W Matheny Clerk.

If Robert's estate amounted to the sum of $12,000, as stated in the affidavit of decease on an earlier page, I have a feeling the term "good old days" did not apply to widows.

A Bill of Appraisement

Of the Specific Property allowed by law to Rachel Wilbourn Widow of Robert L. Wilbourn deceased, for herself and ——— children.

Necessary Household and Kitchen Furniture for self and Family,	150	00
Necessary Beds, Beadstead and Bedding,	50	00
One Spinning Wheel,	7	00
One Loom with its appendages,	25	00
One pair of Cards,	1	00
One Stove and the necessary pipe therefor,	20	00
The Wearing Apparel of herself and family, (need not value this),		
One Milch Cow and Calf for every four in the family,	50	00
One Horse the value of	40	00.
One Woman's Saddle and Bridle of the value of	15	00.
Provision for herself and family for one year,	150	00
Two Sheep for each member of the family and fleeces,	12	00
Food for the above described stock for six months,	100	00
Fuel for herself and family three months,	16	00
And sixty dollars worth of other Property,	60	00.
	$726	00

The appraisement of personal property seemed to be separate from that of property as included on the previous bill of appraisement.

A true and perfect Bill of Appraisement

of the Personal Property of Robert S. Milburn *Deceased, made this* 27th *day of* August *A. D. 18* 57

1 Bed, Bedstead & Bedding	$ 25	00
1 Bed, Bedstead & Bedding	26	00
1 Table	4	00
1 Stand	1	50
1 Rocking Chair	1	50
6 Chairs	2	35
1 Iron Kettle & Hooks	1	50
Cupboard Ware	1	00
1 Mattock & Scythe		25
1 Bureau	4	00
1 Bureau	6	00
1 Press	5	00
1 Cook Stove & furniture	6	00
1 Cloth	2	00
1 Cow	50	00
2 Coffee Mills		25
1 pr Steel yards		75
	$ 135	10

It is unclear to me whether Rachael received only the $135.10 as shown on this receipt, or this amount in addition to the $726.00 shown on the first bill of appraisement. Also, it is not clear to me if she received anything at all from the sale of the farm, which had taken place two years previous.

Received of James McMoore the articles enumerated in the bill of appraisement of the personal property of Robert S. Wilbourn deceased amounting to One hundred and thirty five dollars and ten cents
August 27th 1867

Alex B. Irwin

Rachel her + mark Wilbourn

Rachael may have been willing to sign a receipt and be happy for small favors, but Zachariah is not so easy to pacify. His letter, in the original, is included in the probate papers. However, it is hard to read, so I have made it easier for you. Following is a copy - spelling in his original form. Since it is indicated on some census records that Zachariah did not read and write, it is possible he had a scribe in Mt. Pleasant help him. This theory may also explain the spelling of his signature.

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Sept. 22/67

J. M. Morse Esq.

Dear Sir:

I recieved a letter a few days since from B. F. Irwin Esq. of your county, giveing me some information in regard to the situation of the estate of my father lately deceased of your place. And through him learn that the old lady is associated with yourself as administrators of the estate. There are three heirs living here - myself, Nancy Farmer and Sarah Miller. We learned much to our displeasure, that Brother John had prevailed upon him in his dotage to sell out upon the pretence that he would take him home with him and take care of him as long as he lived for the interest of the mony; and that he did sell for twelve thousand dollars, four thousand of which was paid down, John recieving it, the ballance to be paid in equal payments of $4000 in one and two years with ten per cent interest from date of sale. The next we hear of the matter is his death which occured at Hardins, so it seems he never went to live with John at all - we would like the full history of the matter as we are not satisfied with the imperfect accounts we get. The heirs there do not seem willing to give us any satisfaction in regard to the matter. We wish you to give us all the facts in regard to the matter as you are associated with the old lady, who must be in possession of all the facts. You are a public officer and will discharge your duty impartially to all the heirs; and all we wish here is that the estate may be fairly settled up. You should injoin the payments to John of the ballance due on the land; and force him to pay to you the $4000 he has recieved. Irwin writes that John is worth between 40 and 50 thousand dollars, so the mony can be collected. The mortgages and notes were assigned to John for collection as Irwin says. You should sumon him to appear and deliver up these papers; and settle with you. The court upon a proper application will force him to do so, or imprison him for contempt. We wish you to attend to it with the utmost strictness as we have every reason to think that John in persuadeing him to sell hastened his death. We all desired him to keep his place as long as he lived as he had lived there so long; and was so old and feeble; that a changing residence would shorten his days. We are able to live without anything that may be due us there; but in view of the impossible wrong that has done, whether with a good or bad motive, we intend that author of the evil shall not profit by it, if it shall consume it all in law. So to be plain we intend that we shall have our full shares of the estate when settled up. If John does not settle up squarely you must make him do so without delay as he may make away with his property as we know how obstinate he is. He may already have sold the notes to an innocent purchaser, if so we

have annother seamilly and that is to attack the validity of the sale and recover the land as we are advised that Father was not in a condition of mind to make a conveyance that would be binding in law. Excuse the length of this letter and give us all the infermation you can in regard to the matter. We presume the law will give the old lady one third of the estate; but in view of her age and the fact that she brought only her marriage to the estate - it all being his - her third should be secured as a life estate in chancery, the mony loaned and she to draw out the interest during her life time and after her death the principal to revert to the heirs. This would seem to be equity and the old lady we think will be satisfied with this with an application on the part of heirs to effect it. Give us your views in regard to it. Write me soon.

Yours Truly,

Zahariah Willbourn

Note Zachariah's letter is dated September 22, 1867. Evidently someone in Illinois was not quite happy with John's part in handling his father's estate, and already was preparing to question him in regard to it. The summons on the following page is dated September 10th, 1867.

State of Illinois }
Sangamon County }

The People of the State of Illinois
To the Sheriff of Mason County. Greeting

Whereas James M Morse one of the Administrators of the Estate of Robert S. Wilbourn, deceased has this day filed in my Office an affidavit setting forth that he is one of the Administrators of the Estate of Robert S Wilbourn deceased and that he believes that John S. Wilbourn of Mason County has in his possession goods and chattels and moneys and effects and papers and evidences of debt and titles to lands belonging to said Robert S. Wilbourn deceased and that said John S. Wilbourn conceals the same from this Petitioner

You are therefore Commanded to Summon the said John S. Wilbourn to be and appear before the County Court of Sangamon County on the first day of the next Term of said Court to be holden at the Court House in Springfield on the 3rd Monday in the Month of October 1867 to answer said complaint and have you then there this writ.

Witness Noah W Matheny Clerk of said County Court, at Springfield this 10th day of September 1867

N W Matheny Clerk

The court record of this interrogation is also included, in some detail, in the probate records. First, on a separate sheet of paper, are listed the questions to be asked as follows:

1st - What is your name - age - and place of residence?

2nd - What is your relationship to Robt. S. Wilburn Sr. deceased?

3rd - Did you get any money, notes of deeds or mortgages, horses, cattle, hogs, or other personal property of said Wilburn during his lifetime. If so, what was the deed of mortgage or other personal property and what was its value. Please make a list or schedule of the things asked about, and their value.

4th - Did you get any money, notes of hand, deeds, mortgages, horses, cattle, hogs, mules, or other personal property of said Wilburn or his estate after his death - if so what are the articles - money, notes, or other personal property and what their value. Please make a list or schedule of the things asked about and their value.

The answers given to the previous questions follow:

In the matter of the citation to John S. Welborn by the administration of the estate of Robert Welborn dec'd and in answer to interrogative propounded to said John S. Welborn herein - said defendent to the said several interrogatives answers:

1st - This defendent's name is John S. Wilbourn and he is in his sixty first year of age - his place of residence is in Mason County, Illinois.

2nd - He answers that he is a son of Robert Welbourn dec'd.

3rd - He answers that he has no money, deeds, mortgages, notes of hand, cattle, horses, hogs, mules or other personal property in his possession, nor did he get any such property in the lifetime of said Robert Welbourn and which belonged to him at the time of his death - Robert Welbourn in his lifetime assigned and endorsed to defendent by proper endorsement thereon three several promissory notes which had been executed to by Alexander B. Irvin and Sam I Purviance, each for the sum of four thousand dollars - all dated 1st July 1866 - one due 1st Marsh 1867 - one due March 1st 1868 and one due 1st March 1869 - all to bear ten per cent per annum after 1st March 1867, and said notes were received by a deed of mortgage executed by said Alex B. Irvin upon certain real estate described therein, which mortgages had date 21st July 1866. Said mortgage was delivered to defendent with said notes. He supposed said notes to be of the value named therein. These notes were endorsed to defendent in trust to support the said Robert Wilborn out of the earnings during his lifetime, pay his liabilities out of the same, and to divide the rest amongst children and heirs at law.

One of said notes (that becoming due 1st March 1867) has been paid to defendent, who has discharged some indebtedness out of name of the said Robert Wilborn, and has loaned a portion thereof in good security until a division thereof can be made.

4th - He answers that he did not get any money, notes of hand, deeds, mortgages, houses, cattle, hogs, mules, or other personal property of said Robert Welborn or his estate after the death of said Robert Welborn.

(Signed) John S. Wilburn
Subscribed and sworn to before me the 21st October A. D. 1867

Wm. Prescott
County Court
Sangamon County

Zachariah still is not completely satisfied. I include a copy of his original letter written December 1st 1867, which was the last located in the probate file.

Mt Pleasant Dec 1st 67

I M Morse Esqr

Dear Sir I received your letter some time since in which you stated you would write me again after your court, giving further particulars in regard to my fathers estate. I understand from the heirs there that, there was some personal property left, write me how this is; and whether you have any account of it; and how you are getting along with John — and what the prospects are for an early and peaceable settlement of the estate. Whether any measures —

have been taken to
stop the payments to
John of the money due
or to become due on the
land I think you
should injoin John
from collecting any
more of the money of
the estate; and bring
up for a settlement for
the amount of the first
payment which he
recieved - at the time of
the sale - give me all
the information you
can as soon as you can

Yours Truly
F Willbourn

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